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## LITERATURE.

*A Statistical Account of Bengal.* By W. W. Hunter, B.A., LL.D., &c., &c. (1875-1877.) In Twenty Volumes. (London: Trübner & Co., 1878.)

ACCURATE knowledge is necessary to secure efficient administration. It is because a Government is ignorant, because knowledge has not been collected by it, duly sifted and classified, and brought to bear upon current questions, that the progress of a country is checked and retarded. In India famines, barrenness from *reh* efflorescence, water-logged villages, and all other evils connected with British administration, are more or less due to want of accurate knowledge. It is ignorance, or insufficient information, which renders the most earnest attempts at improvement useless, and even harmful, and which prevents the adoption of effective measures for the welfare of a people.

Every Government, from the earliest ages, which has attempted to do its work has felt the necessity for accurate statistical information; and the first and least difficult part of the operation—namely, the mere collection of facts—has often been more or less thoroughly performed. A great enterprise of the kind was undertaken by the Spanish Government in their American colonies, and the preliminary work of collection was actually completed on a tolerably uniform system. Every parish priest was called upon to submit statistical information respecting his district on a pre-arranged plan, and a great mass of materials was thus brought together after the lapse of many years. But here the good work ended. In the classifying and final utilising of the collected materials the Spanish Government failed entirely. Herrera, and one or two other writers, had access to and dipped into this rich mine of information, and much of it still exists, buried and forgotten. For all useful administrative purposes the labour and money were wasted for want of an organising head.

A similar failure attended a like effort made by the English Government in Bengal, even during the present century. On the statistical survey of a single province the Government expended 30,000*l.* between the years 1807 and 1813, and this formed only one of a series of similar undertakings. A vast accumulation of materials took place, which was buried in different offices, useless either to the public or to the Government. Fifty folio volumes of manuscript and maps were sent home to the India Office, and there they were allowed to rot for thirty years without being touched.

The single attempt to use any of them was that which Mr. Montgomery Martin was unwisely allowed to make in 1838. He had never been in India, was unacquainted with a single Indian language, and destitute of any rudiments of the knowledge necessary to work up the manuscripts. Similar instances in other countries of attempts to collect and utilise information might be adduced, if our space permitted, which have failed from like causes.

The moral of these failures is that continuity must never be lost sight of. It is too often the case that as soon as one man has brought a section of useful work to a state of efficiency he is superseded, and his successor changes and pulls down, from a mere desire of self-assertion. This is the history of many and many a good beginning of useful work. Continuity is destroyed; and the fair edifice, which had been the work of years, is turned into a ruin in as many days. Unless the whole scheme is thought out from its commencement to its conclusion by one head, or else by men who appreciate the work of their predecessors, and preserve its continuity, expensive failures will continue to occur as often as great administrative schemes are undertaken.

It is seldom that one man is able to obtain the responsible charge of an important work sufficiently early in life to enable him to carry it through to completion; but when this does happen, the most essential requirement for success is secured in the best way. The appointment of Dr. W. W. Hunter as Director-General of Statistics to the Government of India was, from this point of view, an event of great importance. At length there was a prospect of a great scheme, the *Imperial Gazetteer*, being planned out, executed, and completed under the direction of one mind. What was a bright prospect in 1869 is now almost a certainty; and, numerous as have been the previous attempts, great as have been the talent and labour expended in former efforts, this will be the first time in the history of civilisation that a statistical work of like magnitude has been begun and finished by one and the same guiding mind.

Dr. Hunter brought to bear on the gigantic task before him a vigorous intellect, untiring zeal and energy, competent knowledge, and the rare gift of instinctive classification, which enabled him to sift with accuracy and precision, and to give each fact its proper place and due importance. Above all, perhaps, he knows the secret of obtaining work from others. His plan was to circulate a series of questions, and to have a local editor in each province, while he himself, by means of regular tours, exercised supervision and secured steady progress and fairly uniform execution of the work. By enlisting the co-operation of district officers and heads of departments throughout India, the materials were gathered in almost without cost, and, as compared with former attempts, with rapidity. The Director-General's own task was not, however, confined, in the first instance, to the collection of new information. His first duty was to collate and utilise the materials already existing, which are widely scattered in the

India Office, in Calcutta, Madras, Bombay, and in other depositories of archives. With these older materials an endeavour had to be made to arrive at the comparative statistics of the various provinces. The second operation was to gather in the information collected and prepared on a uniform plan in each district; and the third and last phase of the undertaking is to provide an organisation to work up the whole into an Imperial Statistical Account of India.

Such is the work upon which Dr. Hunter, with competent assistance, is now engaged. This statistical survey forms an epoch in the history of such enterprises. It will at length furnish a storehouse of trustworthy information, a benefit the magnitude of which can only be estimated by a consideration of the mistakes and losses which have been caused entirely by ignorance. Until the Government has a more full and accurate knowledge of the real facts of the country, and of the actual condition and requirements of its inhabitants, it will never obtain more than a half success in its efforts to render them happier and more prosperous. The great work will be completed in about four years from February, 1877.

Meanwhile the various provincial accounts have been completed, and that for Bengal and Assam is the work of Dr. Hunter himself. The basis of the work is the system of enquiries circulated to district officers, but this has been supplemented by special reports from provincial heads of departments, by papers on individual subjects, and by personal researches in the Bengal districts and among the manuscript records of the Government at Calcutta and in the India Office. The ignorance of the authorities before the preparation of these volumes may be measured by the results of the census of 1872 in Bengal. It was officially believed, before the census was taken, that the population of Bengal and Assam was forty millions. The total by the census amounted to sixty-six and three-quarter millions!

The *Statistical Account of Bengal* is the work now under review. It is one of the local accounts which will, when condensed and combined on a uniform system, form the *Imperial Gazetteer of India*. It consists of twenty volumes, each illustrated by a map, and the arrangement of the materials, for each district, is made on correct principles. The bases of statistics are space and number, represented in administration by the surveys and the census. These must, in correct classification, come first and remain separate as the foundation of all other investigations. Accordingly, Dr. Hunter's two first sections, in his account of each district, give the results of the surveys and of the census. In the first there is information respecting the physical and political geography and the general aspect of the country; and the second treats of the population under the various heads of the Census Report.

The next great divisions dependent on space and number as bases are those which treat of economic and social statistics. The former are included under the two heads of production and distribution. Production comprises the subjects of agriculture, forests, fisheries, mines and manufactures. Distribution treats of means of communication, fairs

and markets, trade and commerce. Social statistics embrace all information bearing on the condition of the people; and finally, administrative statistics furnish particulars respecting the revenue and expenditure, courts of judicature, education, postal and other Government arrangements for the benefit of the people, and police.

The third basis of statistics, combined with the elements of space and number, is that of time, by which comparisons may be made between different periods. The final objects of such work as that of Dr. Hunter have been well summed up by Sir Stafford Northcote, in an address delivered some years ago. It is only when facts have been accumulated in sufficient numbers that the laws which govern them can be studied, and conclusions can be derived from them. These laws are the law of stability, which teaches us to deduce from the observation of particular phenomena general conclusions as to the regularity of their occurrence; and the law of variation, pointing out in what manner, and within what limits, the conditions of human life and the current of human action may be modified or controlled by man. The administrative as well as the scientific value of these laws is proved by the sensitiveness of statistical facts to the influence of real and unmistakable causes which ought, *a priori*, to influence them. Eventually statisticians look forward to being able to describe the economic and social conditions of different parts of the world as precisely and specifically as geographers can describe their physical aspects. Dr. Hunter's *Imperial Gazetteer* will be, without any comparison, the grandest contribution that has hitherto been made towards this end.

But the reader will be much mistaken if he supposes that the statistical accounts of the Bengal districts are merely a dry array of facts. They are prepared with that literary skill and power of description of which the author of *Annals of Rural Bengal* and of *Orissa* is well known to be a master. Every volume contains pleasantly-written information which will be found interesting to numerous classes of enquirers; but we only have space to indicate a few of these. In the first volume we have a most graphic and lifelike description of the great alluvial islands forming the southernmost portion of the Gangetic Delta, and known as the Sundarbans. In the volume on the Bardwan Division there is a comprehensive history of the coal industry in the Raniganj district, including an account of the method of working the coal, and other details. In others we have similarly prepared histories of tea-cultivation, of the development of the jute industry, and in all there are interesting details respecting the daily life of the people, their means of subsistence, and the calamities to which they are exposed. As a literary work, apart from its excellence as a storehouse of facts, the *Statistical Account of Bengal* takes high rank.

In conclusion we must allude to the great service which Dr. Hunter has performed in establishing a uniform system of spelling native names. No one can fully appreciate the difficulty of the task who has not himself had to encounter the innumerable delays and petty obstructions of a public office, when anything outside the ordinary routine

is attempted to be done; but all who have studied Indian subjects must have felt the evils of that wild confusion into which the orthography of native names has fallen, owing to the absence of any system. Recent Government orders, due to Dr. Hunter's persevering efforts, have established a uniformity which the *Imperial Gazetteer* will, in another generation, make permanent.

CLEMENTS R. MARKHAM.

Gérard de Nerval. Poésies complètes.  
(Paris: Calmann Lévy, 1877.)

It is now for the first time, nearly a quarter of a century after his death, that the poems of Gérard are collected. In the general resuscitation of the poets of 1830 the sweetest figure and the most winning has been forgotten. The fame of his prose has a little extinguished the reputation of his verse: his matchless *Voyage en Orient* has taken a place among the French classics, and bibliography has neglected the rest of his writings. His dramas have never been reprinted, many of them not even printed; his *Le Prince des Sots*, the blue rose for which M. Charles Asselineau was always searching, is still undiscovered, and perhaps no one is fit to find it now the best of bibliographers is dead. Gérard de Nerval's best story, "Sylvie," is only to be found, or I am much mistaken, in the body of the *Revue des Deux Mondes*. That the present volume is what it professes to be, the complete collection of his poems, can, surely, in no sense be true. Where is the series of mystical sonnets which he published under the title of *Vers dorés*, by the side of which, we are assured, Lycophron is limpid and the Orphic Hymns a book to run and read? Unless, indeed, they are the mystical but not extremely obscure sonnets here entitled *Les Chimères*. But the wayward practice Gérard affected of burying his best writings in obscure journals, and even under a succession of such pseudonyms as Aloysius Block and Fritz, makes it probable that much has evaded the present editor, who shows no great skill in bibliography.

Gérard de Nerval was the assumed name of Gérard Labrunie, who was one of the leaders of *Le petit Cénacle*—that band of enthusiastic youths roused into poetic life by the early writings of Victor Hugo. Gérard was the first of all these younger writers to make a reputation. When he was barely out of his sixteenth year, in 1826, he brought out a slender volume of *Poésies Politiques*, in which the manner of the master, first revealed four years before in the *Odes et Ballades*, is sufficiently marked. In 1827 he essayed a bolder flight in the *Élégies Nationales*, dedicated to Béranger, published at the moment when the liberty of the press was being discussed, and full of ardour and confidence.

"Je ne suis plus enfant: trop longs pour mon envie,  
Déjà dix-sept printemps ont passé dans ma vie.  
Je possède une lyre."

and the public consented to acknowledge that the precocious lad knew the art to strike it rousing. In 1828 he published his elaborate translation of *Faust*, a work that has survived all later rivals, and which called forth from Goethe himself an expres-

sion of the warmest recognition. The youth of eighteen was one of the most renowned persons of the hour, and the newspapers rang with his praises, when the names of Gautier, of De Musset, and even of Pétrus Borel were still utterly obscure. This brilliant success he bore with the most unaffected simplicity, and even with indifference; the only use he made of it was to form a bond of union between his less famous friends and the influential journals, who were glad to accept their contributions at his recommendation. He himself was averse from publicity, unambitious after the first successes of youth, and too restless to settle down into Parisian life. He was much addicted, like all the circle, to the romantic literature of Germany. He devoted himself to Hoffman and Jean Paul, and after a while he passed into the country itself, the more thoroughly to steep his thought in Teutonic fancy. Through German thought he became influenced by the mysterious attraction of the East, and at last wandered away alone into Egypt and Syria, where he leisurely adopted the life of one Oriental people after another, and laid up the store of experience with which he afterwards filled his most fascinating and most memorable book. But it was not his nature to be at rest; he took his life in swallow-flights, and he came back to Paris, no less gentle, no less unselfish, but sadder, and with a more wistful isolation of character. His strange and beautiful life came to a most sinister conclusion, in the month of January, 1855, when he hanged himself early one morning in the Rue de la Vieille Lanterne, in the forty-seventh year of his age. He had for some time past shown signs of insanity, and had even been placed for his safety in the house of a physician; his friends were therefore not wholly unprepared for the terrible news, which occupied Paris for a week.

As is often the case with the actual verses of a man of immense personal influence, the poems collected in this volume do not fully account for the vast reputation of Gérard among his friends. Théophile Gautier has left a study of his person and character which is among the most admirable portraits of that great master of description. It presents us with the figure of a thoroughly poetical and original person, whose actions, words, and even movements, proved his imaginative individuality as much, perhaps even more, than what he wrote. With a little more external mediocrity, Gérard de Nerval might have written better. But his life was poetic; he moved in a rich dream, and after his early youth was over he lacked the stimulus of ambition or of vanity. His poems, as they are here presented to us, seem to belong to two entirely different periods: the first closing about 1831, and distinctly attributable to the Romanesque movement; the second extending from about 1842 to his death. In the former we see, by slight indications, how ready and how skilful he was to adopt the glowing innovations of his contemporaries. The exquisite verses called "Politique" (p. 225), with their melancholy longing, as of an imprisoned bird or soul, for the life of leaves and for the open air, are no less admirable



in form than treatment. Such a descriptive stanza as this, from "Avril," shows a realistic force and talent hardly surpassed, at the time of its composition, by Victor Hugo himself.

"Déjà les beaux jours, la poussière,  
Un ciel d'azur et de lumière,  
Les murs enflammés, les longs soirs;  
Et rien de vert; à peine encore  
Un reflet rougeâtre décore  
Les grands arbres aux rameaux noirs!"

In his latest poems, particularly in the curious cycle of sonnets *Les Chimères*, his style is more powerful, but stranger and more grotesque. Perversity was the order of the day. Baudelaire was about to reveal himself, and these sonnets prophesy, at least in their mystical and violently modern tone, of *Les Fleurs du Mal*, which first appeared about three years after the death of Gérard de Nerval. Of *Les Chimères* the most graceful and the most sonorous appears to me to be the following, in which the subtilty of the thought interferes in no wise with the luminous and delicate form.

"La connais-tu, Daphné, cette ancienne romance,  
Au pied du sycomore, ou sous les lauriers blancs,  
Sous l'olivier, le myrte ou les saules tremblants,  
Cette chanson d'amour . . . qui toujours recommence ?

Reconnais-tu le temple, au péristyle immense,  
Et les citrons amers où s'imprimaient tes dents ?  
Et la grotte, fatale aux hôtes imprudents,  
Où du dragon vaincu dort l'antique semence ?  
Ils reviendront, ces dieux que tu pleures toujours !  
Le temps va ramener l'ordre des anciens jours ;  
La terre a tressailli d'un souffle prophétique . . .  
Cependant la sibylle au visage latin  
Est endormie encor sous l'arc de Constantin :  
—Et rien n'a dérangé le sévère portique."

We part with a certain vague disappointment from a volume to which we have long looked forward, and which might, we cannot but suspect, have been, with a little care, made far more important than it is.

EDMUND W. GOSSE.

*The Encyclopædia Britannica*. Ninth Edition. Vol. VII.—DEA-ELD. (Edinburgh: Adam & Charles Black, 1877.)

The publication of this magnificent encyclopædia steadily continues at the rate of two volumes in the year. The first volume appeared towards the close of 1874; and now, after an interval of three years, we have received the seventh instalment, which carries us half-way through the letter E. From these data we may reasonably anticipate that the whole will be completed in about twelve years from the commencement, filling twice as many volumes. The enterprise of the publishers, and the labour of the large staff engaged upon the work in its various branches, may be imperfectly realised when we add that each volume contains more than 800 double-column pages of quarto. It is but right to draw attention to this aspect of the undertaking, as the public are naturally disposed to look only to the quality of the longer articles, and not award sufficient gratitude to the bold venture of capital and the editorial skill which are no less necessary conditions of success. Having said so much, we may be allowed to reiterate an old grievance on a point of petty detail—that the printers are unpardonably inattentive to the due insertion of full stops.

The most important article in this volume is that on "Egypt," which occupies more than one-tenth of the whole. It is assigned to Mr. Reginald Stuart Poole; but to some extent it may be regarded as a joint production of the eminent family who have devoted themselves to the study of things Egyptian. *The Modern Egyptians*, by Mr. Lane, first published in 1836, and *The Englishwoman in Egypt*, by Mr. Lane's sister, Mrs. Poole, have never been superseded as standard authorities for the social life of the people. In addition to these books, use has been made of Mr. Lane's unpublished "Description of Egypt;" and beneath the historical sections are subscribed the initials of Mr. Edward Stanley Poole, and his son Mr. Stanley Lane Poole. The result of this loyal co-operation is a most exhaustive account of a country which in its language and its antiquities constitutes a department of science by itself. The early chronology is treated with not a little scepticism—an attitude which we do not presume to criticise—and the events of the Mohammedan period are chronicled at great length. It must be through an oversight that a paragraph on p. 742, regarding the judicial reforms of Nubar Pasha, is repeated, almost *verbatim*, on p. 767. The article on "Denmark" is contributed by Mr. E. W. Gosse. In the section giving a sketch of Danish Literature, we recognise the combined knowledge and felicity of style which are displayed by the same writer in such minor notices as those of "Drayton" and "Donne." But *non omnia possumus omnes*. The main portion of the article contains a few blunders, not so much of fact as of compilation. The entire paragraph dealing with the agriculture of Denmark has somehow got involved in confusion; and that on government exhibits a palpable contradiction, due evidently to the incorporation of a line from the last edition. Of the remaining geographical titles, "Edinburgh," county and city, is treated with the fullness that we should have expected; "Devonshire" will scarcely satisfy the enthusiasm of west-countrymen; "Dumfries," on the other hand, to adopt a Scotticism which has twice offended us in reading the volume, "bulks" too largely for the comparative importance of a town with 13,000 inhabitants.

The articles dealing with the Sciences and the Arts are as numerous as usual. We can only enumerate a few of the more prominent. "Elasticity" is written by Prof. Sir William Thomson; "Distribution" conjointly by Mr. A. R. Wallace and Mr. W. T. T. Dyer; "Diagrams" and "Diffusion" by Prof. Clerk Maxwell; "Earth" by Col. A. R. Clarke; "Echinodermata" by Mr. F. H. Butler. In "Diving" and "Dredging" Mr. D. Stevenson again brings his personal experience to bear upon the elucidation of subjects which require some adventitious attraction. We notice that the article on "Eels" repeats the exploded story, first popularised by Humboldt, that the Indians capture *Gymnoti* by driving horses into the ponds in order to exhaust their electrical power. (See the *ACADEMY* for September 8, 1877, p. 252.) The theological contributions will not invite so much notice as some

that have appeared in earlier numbers. "Deluge," by Mr. Cheyne, may be commended to the attention of the Dean of Westminster, who recently animadverted upon the fashion in which this heading is slurred over in Smith's *Dictionary of the Bible*. It should be read as supplementing the article on "Cosmology" by the same writer in the last volume. "Decalogue," by Prof. Robertson Smith, gives a critical summary of the opinions that have been held on the "Ten Words;" and "Ecclesiastes," by Dr. Ginsburg, re-states the interpretation which the writer published in 1861 in his *Cohleth*, commonly called the *Book of Ecclesiastes*. Prof. Candlish, under the novel title of "Dogmatic," argues at some length for the claims of his subject, as a study independent of Biblical theology and the science of religion: but it is significant that he fails to find a single representative for it among English theologians. Philosophy proper is conspicuous by its absence. This would not have been the case if Prof. Caird had not anticipated the metaphysics of Descartes in his article on "Cartesianism" in the fifth volume. The ground having been thus partially pre-occupied, Mr. W. Wallace was compelled to concentrate himself on the narrower field of biography, to which he has added a sketch of the physical speculations of the great French *savant*. It is no small praise that he has been able to clothe with interest these less attractive departments of his subject. Without any parade of erudition he tells us probably all that is to be discovered about the incidents of Descartes' early career of campaign and travel, and his subsequent seclusion in Holland; while he expounds the celebrated theory of vortices with more sympathy than might have been expected from an Englishman of the present age. Mathematicians, perhaps, will be disposed to claim for themselves a larger part in the founder of modern analytic geometry.

The second longest article in the volume is that on the "Drama," by Prof. A. W. Ward—a storehouse of learning on the history of dramatic literature and the stage in all countries. The writer is disposed to regard with despondency the future of the drama in England, "so long as there is no national theatre removed above the conditions of commercial speculation." One of James Mill's best-known contributions to previous editions of the *Encyclopædia Britannica* was his essay on "Education," which possesses for us the additional interest of developing the theory exemplified in the person of John Stuart Mill. The present article, by Mr. Oscar Browning, is confined to an historical review of the educational systems that have been put before the world at various times. The change of treatment is characteristic of an intellectual tendency of our generation which is everywhere conspicuous in these pages. Ours is an age not wanting in appreciation for the labours of its predecessors, but it seems to have lost their freedom of original speculation. Our point of view is turned backwards rather than forwards. The attitude of criticism has superseded the enthusiasm of constructive genius. In justice, however, to Mr. Browning it should be added that he obscurely

promises a disquisition on Paedagogy or the science of teaching under another head. There is appended to his article an outline of the law relating to primary instruction in the United Kingdom, but no programme of our educational institutions and no comparative statistics.

Among miscellaneous articles may be mentioned "Drawing," by Mr. Hamerton; "Dietetics," by Dr. T. K. Chambers; and "Drunkenness," by Dr. G. W. Balfour, which last reads like a scientific apology for the national vice, which is not least prevalent north of the Tweed. "Demonology," by Mr. Tylor, and "Dream," by Mr. Sully, are both discussed from a point of view with which the writers have already made us acquainted. In the department of Biography the names of men of letters predominate over all others. In the same class with the article on Descartes already referred to we would place "Dürer," by Prof. Sidney Colvin; "Dickens" and "Dryden," by Mr. Minto; and "Defoe," by Mr. Saintsbury. Prof. Jebb contributes an estimate of Demosthenes; and Mr. J. Morley has but too briefly indicated the chief features in the literary career of Diderot. The Lives of the Earls of Derby and Dundonald are written by Mr. W. Browning Smith, whose death we regret to have noticed between the appearance of the volume and the publication of these lines.

JAS. S. COTTON.

*Masters in English Theology; being the King's College Lectures for 1877.* (London: John Murray, 1877.)

WHETHER regarded as a contribution to history or to theology, the above admirable series of lectures well deserves a careful study. It is not often that six writers of acknowledged ability and ripe attainments are to be found contributing to a volume of such modest dimensions; it is still more rarely that instruction conveyed in such a form embodies so much valuable criticism and unconventional treatment of the several subjects.

The main object, common to the whole series, has been to place before the student the distinctive merits of the different great writers successively discussed, viewed mainly in relation to the communion they adorned. In order to bring out this relation more clearly, an Historical Preface from the pen of Canon Barry has been prefixed, which explains succinctly, but very lucidly, the conditions that served to modify our Anglican theology from its first exposition at the hands of Hooker, as the doctrine of a "Reformed branch of the ancient Catholic Church," to its more systematic and scholastic treatment by Bishop Pearson.

The language employed by Dr. Barry, both in the Preface and in his lecture on Hooker, when speaking of the English Church, recalls somewhat forcibly that in which some of our ablest writers, from Burke to Mr. Freeman, have described the English Constitution—as a polity resting on precedent, exhibiting through all its modifications much of the ancient structure, and incorporating reforms and innovations by a gradual process which, if involving not a few anomalies, can at least plead in

its defence that it has resulted in the preservation of the original edifice, while many a more symmetrical and pretentious design has risen only to collapse and disappear. "Englishmen," says Dr. Barry, "have always preferred the recognition of all the facts of any case, however irreconcilable they may seem, to the sacrifices which a perfect logical system invariably demands, before it can square to its required limits the complex variety of human nature and human life." And so the English Reformation was "a growth, not an artificial formation—having all the irregularities and imperfections of a natural development, but having also the secret of permanence, in virtue of its adaptation to the character and progress of the English people." In like manner, Dean Church admits that Andrewes and his school could not hide from themselves that their Church was an anomaly, but then "it was only an anomaly among anomalies—amid universal anomaly" (p. 108)—"an irregular and inconsistent fabric," again to quote Dr. Barry, which the English genius deliberately preferred to "the squared and compacted fortress of Calvinism" (p. 17). So, again, the great work of Hooker, while deriving its chief value from the masterly exposition of first principles which it embodies, exhibits also its peculiar adaptation to the national mind by the manner in which it treats of Christianity "as concrete in individual and corporate Christian life" (p. 18). Much that serves to render Hooker's whole conception more intelligible, and specially to vindicate it from the imputation of absolutist tendencies, will be found cogently and tersely expressed in this able lecture.

The next lecture, that on Andrewes, will, however, probably be generally recognised as the most important of the series. Dean Church has here chosen for his theme a subject which he has evidently studied with special care, and sought to set in a somewhat new light. Language that classes Andrewes as a Reformer, and speaks of the Reformation as still going on in 1662, will, indeed, appear strange to many readers; but nothing is of more importance, in endeavouring to form an estimate of our seventeenth-century theology, than to understand the difficulty under which those leaders of the English Church laboured, who, while maintaining her historical affinities with the past, were at the same time painfully conscious of the void created in the hearts of many by the renunciation of mediæval traditions. To the desire to find at least a partial substitute for the foremost of those traditions, that of a universal Head of Christendom, we may refer, in a great measure, the exaggerated theory that arose of the relations of the Crown to the Church—a theory which was "partly a very real and natural idea at the time; partly a factitious and scholastic one," while it "partly expressed, vaguely and imperfectly, the claims of public law" (p. 83). In the controversy in which, at the instance of King James, Andrewes reluctantly engaged with Bellarmine and Duperron, those giants of Ultramontane erudition, he approved himself a worthy champion of the Anglican cause, and, from his standpoint, was able to accept the chal-

lenge—to which neither Luther nor Calvin nor Whitgift could have responded with equal confidence—which invited him to submit the relative merits of the Roman and the Reformed Church to the test afforded by a comparison of their respective agreement with the Church of St. Augustine and the first four Councils. The skilful analysis by which the loftiness and comprehensiveness of Andrewes' theology are brought out in strong relief when contrasted with the rigid systematising of Calvinism on the one hand, and with the narrow formalism of Laud on the other, constitutes this study a distinct advance on anything that has hitherto appeared on the subject. There is a singular slip on page 98, in referring to an opinion expressed by Clarendon as to the measure of success that might have attended Andrewes' administration had he been appointed to succeed Abbot, where Bancroft is obviously intended—an inadvertency which sets us pondering on what might not indeed have happened if Andrewes had lived on to 1633 to be Archbishop instead of Laud, and the policy of the English Church for the next twelve years had been guided by his humane spirit and lofty intelligence.

The lecture on Chillingworth is much shorter, but is of considerable interest. It offers, in most respects, a marked contrast to the highly eulogistic tone that characterises Principal Tulloch's sketch in his well-known *Rational Theology in England*. In estimating the *Religion of Protestants*, whether regarded as a literary production or a theological tractate, Dr. Plumptre employs much more qualified language. "The book," he says, "is essentially the work of a second-rate, not of a first-rate, thinker; of a mind logical, acute, disputatious, but not endowed with the 'vision and the faculty divine' which gives width and equilibrium, and order and lucidity" (p. 120). Chillingworth's celebrated dictum, "the Bible the religion of Protestants," is characterised as "a perilous epigram," to which neither Butler nor Hooker would ever have given utterance; and his uncritical mode of looking on the Bible as a whole, "in which a text is a text wherever it may be found," is censured, not merely as a method of interpretation which has been abandoned by the wider knowledge of later times, but as one which, when compared with the more discriminating views represented by Erasmus and Grotius, was reactionary in tendency. After directly expressing his dissent from the concluding sentence of Principal Tulloch's criticism—that "there are few names, even in a history so fruitful in great names as that of the Church of England, which more excite our admiration, or which claim a higher place in the development of religious thought"—Dr. Plumptre equally demurs to Locke's high encomium of the *Religion of Protestants* as supplying an admirable disciplinary exercise for the reasoning powers, holding that "young minds need the guidance of a calmer and more evenly balanced intellect than that of one who is neither thorough, nor consistent, nor complete—whose whole life was a series of disputes and oscillations, ending in retrogression" (p. 143).

In "Jeremy Taylor" Canon Farrar's rhe-



torical and descriptive powers find a congenial theme. His treatment, however, differs somewhat from that of the rest, his sketch resembling rather a contribution to a popular serial than a lecture to students. It brings before us very vividly the main facts in Taylor's life, and the characteristics of his genius, but gives no very definite conception of any one of his great works. Canon Farrar, indeed, is so lost in admiration of Taylor's brilliant imaginative powers that he almost declines to criticise, and seems to hold that in productions of so much splendour we have no right to postulate "the rigid scrupulosity of precisely accurate reasoning and definition;" while he sets aside the objections of more than one able writer to Taylor's claims to rank as a thinker as "the pedantries of formal criticism."

In "John Pearson" Canon Cheetham essays the far more difficult task of investing with corresponding interest the character and writings of the judicially-minded author of the *Exposition of the Creed*—"a school-man," as he describes him, "with the scholarship of the Renaissance." Few probably who have studied the *Exposition* have been aware how much the author was indebted to Thomas Aquinas; and this lecture is especially valuable for the clearness with which it brings out the more important influences of scholasticism on our Anglican theology. It is well deserving of note that Baxter, who undervalued the school logic, was yet fain to confess that among those of the opposite party at the Savoy Conference, Pearson approved himself "the true logician and disputant," disputing "accurately, soberly, and calmly." If we compare with this Baker's judgment on Baxter himself on the same occasion—when he says that "Mr. Baxter, who knew nothing of an university, nor was acquainted with any other chair save that of the pulpit, only in the strength of natural logic ventured to engage in mood and figure with some of our best and most experienced divines, with such success as usually attends rash undertakings" (*Life of Anthony Tuckney*, i., 231)—we may perhaps conclude that the old scholastic disputations had their uses after all.

It is a little to be regretted that (owing probably to the necessity for brevity) these lectures do not include more frequent references to contemporary or preceding thought. For example, the influence of Daillé's "epoch-making" treatise, just glanced at by Dr. Farrar (p. 193), *De l'emploi des saints pères*, &c., which appeared in 1632, was potent both on Chillingworth and Taylor, a fact strongly insisted on by Warburton in the Preface to his *Julian*, and one which accounts for many striking resemblances between the *Religion of Protestants* and the *Liberty of Prophesying*. Considering, again, the frequency with which points of contact between the scholastic and the Anglican theology here offer themselves to our notice, it might have been of service if Dr. Westcott, when describing the belief that "there is nothing true in divinity which is false in philosophy, or the contrary," as "the burden of Whichcote's lesson," had taken occasion to inform his hearers how pre-eminently this was a scho-

lastic idea, taught from the time of John Scotus in the ninth century down to Roger Bacon, the Franciscan friar, in the thirteenth, and enunciated in 1277 as a doctrine of the Church by Etienne Tempier, the Chancellor of the University of Paris. In fact, as Kleutgen appears to have satisfactorily established in his *Philosophie der Vorzeit* (I., ii.), the "Ketzerei von der doppelten Wahrheit" was never fairly chargeable on any of the Schoolmen, but was an idea started by their great enemies, the New Aristotelians in Italy, at the commencement of the sixteenth century, to be rehabilitated, as Dr. Westcott observes, by Hobbes and Bacon in the seventeenth.

J. BASS MULLINGER.

*Upper Egypt: its People and its Products, &c.*  
By C. B. Klunzinger, M.D. With a Prefatory Notice by Dr. Georg Schweinfurth.  
(London: Blackie & Son, 1878.)

THIS is a very different kind of book from those given us lately by Mr. de Leon and others, describing the Khedive's Egypt as it exists in Cairo and Alexandria. It relates to the *campagna*; to the littoral of the Red Sea; to the villages and the small towns; to the general aspect and to the minute natural history of the section of country to which it relates. Dr. Klunzinger, with a break of three years, lived from 1863 to 1875 in Egypt, chiefly at Koseir, but also in the neighbouring portion of the Nile valley corresponding to the ancient Thebaid; and he lived among the people, learning their language and studying their customs. He does not do so himself, but the author of *The Heart of Africa* compares his book with the similar work by "Lane of blessed memory," the difference being that, while they both lived almost entirely among the Egyptians, Lane occupied himself in the main with such conditions of life as exist in a large town only, while Klunzinger goes into small towns and into the country. But the title *Upper Egypt* is now a misnomer, and one calculated to mislead. Technically it is correct enough; but when Upper Egypt is spoken of nowadays we at once think of the regions beyond Nubia, stretching up to the Lake country, and not of a district within 300 miles of Cairo and 100 of the upper part of the Red Sea. The vast territory and innumerable tribes of what constitutes the Upper Egypt of our day are untouched by Dr. Klunzinger, whose experience was drawn from a very small and tolerably familiar part of Egypt. The comparison of this book with the *Manners and Customs of the Modern Egyptians* is rather an unfortunate one, because Lane opened up an almost entirely new subject with which that of our author is very nearly identical, notwithstanding the difference between town and country; and a considerable part of the information which both present is almost of necessity identical. We must also say that a good many of the descriptions furnished by Dr. Klunzinger are very old friends. In a work which professes to give, and does give, a view of the *vie intime* of a section of Egypt, it was quite unnecessary to give us a full-length portrait of the donkey-boy again, or descriptions of the Turkish bath and of the obstacles to riding

through Egyptian streets. There are even five closely-printed pages devoted to directions to the traveller as to how to saddle and mount his camel, which directions read uncommonly like Captain Burton's advice to Mr. John Bull on the same subject, only with the fun left out. Some subjects are treated with a detail which becomes uninteresting and is of no use, while others are passed over: as when we are told of the quarrels of the men without any account of the far more vehement and picturesque quarrels of the women which may be witnessed in the by-streets of any Egyptian town or village.

At the same time we must say that this is a readable and interesting book. Its author knew well the people he describes, and contributes to our knowledge of them in a pleasing style. Thus, for instance, in going up the Nile he takes us into a native passage-boat, and describes the voyage made there, with its characters and incidents; and this is followed by accounts of a Nile village, of the methods of agriculture, of the seasons, of the field and garden plants, of wild plants, of the animal world, and so forth. There is similar information in regard to the vessels of the Red Sea, even the mariner's lute being described, and the Arabic terms of his calendar explained. The practical chapter on this subject is useful, and there is also an interesting chapter on the natural treasures of the Red Sea, in which even P. and O. passengers might find a good deal to instruct and amuse them, and a chapter which might be of special value to those delayed at Suez or Aden. Indeed, this seems to me the most fascinating part of the book. Dr. Klunzinger may not be more at home when standing on a coral reef than when in an Egyptian village, but he has certainly more interesting facts to tell us, and facts which will be more novel to the ordinary reader.

What is to be gathered from this book is entirely in line with the accounts of all competent observers of the Mohammedan world, not only in this century but for two centuries back. Its general result is very well put by Dr. Schweinfurth—himself one of the highest authorities on the subject—when he says, speaking of the ruling classes as contrasted with the Fellahin:—

"Here we see men without character, without national feeling, without conscience, from cowardice as incapable of crime [?] as from mean-spiritedness they are incapable of any noble actions. But we should be guilty of manifest injustice in judging of the character of the people were we to allow our disgust for a class to set us against the whole. . . . The Fellahin are only to be compared with the dregs of our lowest social strata; and looked at from this point of view they cannot but appear to us worthy of admiration. Deprived of almost all means of self-cultivation, and without any pattern of morality above them worthy of being imitated, they grow up quite like savages; nevertheless we see them excelling in several virtues which only the wisest amongst us practice."

Such conclusions have often been forced upon me in the East; and they are adopted by the most temperate-minded of our observers and have the support of such great travellers as Mungo Park, Livingstone, and

Cameron. A pessimist would use them only to show how the evil spirit of existence must employ a modicum of good in order to make existence possible; and he would compare the governing class of Egypt with the governing power of the universe. But from a practical, common-sense point of view, Dr. Schweinfurth's distinction is apt to be misleading; for the vices of the rulers of Egypt are inextricably intermixed with those of its people, and, as a mere matter of fact, any improvement which has occurred in Egypt within the century has come from its higher rulers, or from strangers who elevated themselves into high positions like Mehemet Ali, and not from its own people.

ANDREW WILSON.

*The History of Antiquity.* Translated from the German of Prof. Max Duncker by Evelyn Abbott. Vol. I. (London: R. Bentley & Son, 1877.)

AN English translation of Prof. Max Duncker's *Geschichte des Alterthums* is very welcome; it has had the advantage of the author's own supervision and correction, and so may be regarded as embodying his latest and most mature opinion. The first volume of the English translation, which has as yet alone appeared, deals with the history of the leading nations of the ancient East, with Egypt, with Babylonia and Assyria, with the Phoenicians and the Hebrews, and with the inhabitants of Asia Minor. It is here more than anywhere else that our knowledge has been so marvellously enlarged by the discoveries and criticism of the last half-century. The monuments of Egypt and Assyria, the inscriptions of Babylonia and Phoenicia, the untiring efforts that have been made to determine the date and meaning of the Hebrew records, have revolutionised the history of the past and carried us back to the cradles of culture and civilisation. Much no doubt still remains doubtful; breaks still occur in the evidence, which have to be connected by uncertain conjecture, and the harvest that has already been gathered is but an earnest of what is yet to come. But sufficient materials have nevertheless been collected for the use of the historian, and Prof. Duncker's *History of Antiquity* reads like the discovery of a new world when compared with the meagre and legendary manuals which passed as ancient histories but a few years ago.

Not that all his statements and conclusions can be accepted as final or regarded as beyond criticism. Prof. Duncker does not profess to be more than an historian, whose task it is to weigh and combine the facts presented by the philologist and decipherer. He is obliged to depend upon others for his knowledge of the inscriptions and the tale they tell, and to rely upon the judgment of experts for the authorities to whom he should trust. Unfortunately the decipherment of the Egyptian or Assyrian monuments has sometimes been taken up with more zeal than knowledge, while the progressive and tentative nature of the study necessitates perpetual revision and modification of opinion even on the part of qualified scholars. Hence the historian who is unable to control the reading of the inscriptions

and the theories of their decipherers is in a peculiarly difficult position and needs more than ordinary caution and skill. Prof. Max Duncker, with all his historical ability, has not always been able to keep clear of unfounded combinations based on erroneous or questionable statements. Thus he accepts Mordtmann's interpretation of the Vannic inscriptions, and takes from him the name Bagridur as that of the Minnian king who the Assyrian monuments show us was really called Sar-duri or Seduri. Thus, too, his readings of Babylonian proper names are frequently antiquated—as when he calls Dungi *Igi*, or speaks of "Uruk" and "King Sarruk." The latter, however, is probably a misprint for Sar-yucin (Sargon), though the name does not mean "strong is the king," as Duncker asserts, nor is there any inscription which ascribes to Sar-yucin the foundation of Agané.

It would not be worth while to notice trifling flaws like these were the book not of such sterling value as a whole. Nowhere can a better and more interesting history of the ancient East be found, or one in which every opportunity has been seized of utilising the latest discoveries. Instead of a long list of aimless wars and unfamiliar names, we have short but clear sketches of the political histories of the great nations of antiquity, in which the main points of interest and importance are alone dwelt upon; while other chapters are filled with the even more important history of art and religion, of science and manners, which has made the revelations of Egypt and Assyria of such moment to us of to-day. In short the volume before us tells the general reader how the Egyptian or Babylonian of a remote past lived and thought; it traces the growth of civilisation, and sets before us the long-forgotten culture from which both Jew and Greek learned so much. Egypt and Babylonia live again in their monuments, and the facts these have already been made to yield only need an accomplished historian, such as Prof. Max Duncker has shown himself, to combine themselves into a connected story and a revelation of strange interest. Six thousand years ago Egypt was already a civilised power, standing like a solitary pharos amid the darkness of surrounding barbarism, with an organised government, an extensive literature, and a developed art. The art of the Old Empire, indeed, reached a higher point than that of any subsequent period, and the history of Egyptian art, like the history of a good part of Egyptian civilisation, is a history of continuous decline. Babylonian civilisation cannot claim so great an antiquity, though its beginnings must be sought more than thirty centuries before the Christian era. It was the creation of a race speaking an agglutinative language and allied, it may be, to the Finns and Turks of the present day, and from them it was borrowed and improved by Semitic tribes. As in Egypt, so too in Babylonia, writing began with pictures of objects and ideas, which gradually passed into characters that bore little or no resemblance to the primitive forms. Libraries were founded in the Chaldean cities and stored with books on papyrus and clay, astronomy and mathematics found their first students, and law be-

came a recognised profession. That "there is nothing new under the sun" is a truth which is constantly being impressed on the Assyrian and Egyptian scholar. The more we know of the nations of the ancient East, the more like to ourselves they seem to be, the more their civilisation is seen to resemble our own. The Greeks were indeed but children, as the priest of Sais told Solon; while they were still the rude barbarians whose remains have been preserved under the lava-beds of Thera, nay, long before they had reached the shores of the Mediterranean or even, perhaps, before they had left their early Asiatic home, great empires had risen and declined, great civilisations had grown and faded, of which they, like ourselves, were the heirs and successors. The first volume of Prof. Duncker's *History* reads like a page torn from the annals of another planet, so strange does it sound to those whose historical vision has been bounded by the classics of Greece and Rome. But it is beginning to be recognised that we cannot understand Greece and Rome without understanding that which went before them and the men into whose labours the Greek and the Roman entered. "Westward the course of empire takes its way;" and so, too, does the course of civilisation and the education of mankind.

The translation has been well and conscientiously performed, and but one fault can be found with it. It is a pity that the translator did not ask the aid of an Oriental scholar in the transliteration of proper names. The German *ch*, for instance, is retained in words like *Chufu*, *Chafra*, *Cheta*, where the English reader will naturally give it a wrong pronunciation; and the German *sch* is written instead of *sh* in words like *Schasu*. Then there are downright mistakes, like *Kaldiai* (p. 257) for *Kaldai*. In a second edition, which we hope the book will soon reach, these mis-spellings may easily be corrected.

A. H. SAYCE.

#### NEW NOVELS.

*In Love and War.* A Romance. By Charles Gibbon, Author of "In Honour Bound," &c. In Three Volumes. (London: R. Bentley & Son, 1877.)

*Under the Will: and other Tales.* By Mary Cecil Hay, Author of "Old Myddelton's Money." In Three Volumes. (London: Hurst & Blackett, 1878.)

*A False Step: or, Real Life in Australia.* A Tale in One Volume. By Marc. (London: Remington & Co., 1878.)

A FULL acquaintance with Scottish history, and no small knowledge of the Scottish Border, its traditions, customs, and dialect, have enabled Mr. Charles Gibbon to produce in *In Love and War* a novel which may bear reading even after Scott. Taking for his theme the Court of the Third James of Scotland, at Linlithgow, and the ascendancy of Cochrane and his associated favourites in that monarch's counsels, to the prejudice and disgust of the Douglas, Lord Gray, and the great territorial nobles, he has interwoven a romantic love-story, opening with interrupted nuptials in a Border castle, where Katherine Janfarie, the daughter of a bold



Borderer, forced to the altar for union with Sir Robert Cochrane, and for the honour of alliance with the upstart favourite, is carried away by a Lochinvar-like suitor, Bertrand Gordon, of Lamington, a loyal and gallant Borderer, who thus draws upon himself the persistent hostility of the wild-spirited Janfarie clan, as well as the secret malice and plotting of the cheated bridegroom. An instant and hot pursuit of the fugitives, with picked men and bloodhounds, under the symbol of the "Hot Trod," and the lead of Sir Hugh Janfarie, his son, and son-in-law that should have been, brings them to bay in the town of Dumfries, and serious complications arise in the slaughter of Sir Hugh amid a fray with the townsfolk, fomented in the first instance, for the object of securing the escape of himself and his lady-love, by Gordon's artful suggestion that they should let Cochrane "ken what they thought of his 'base plack'"—i.e. "debased coinage." Add to this at a later period—when the course of true love was already going anything but smoothly through the artifices and plots of the wily Cochrane, and the true knight Gordon was for his lady's sake avoiding the single combat which the eldest son of Sir Hugh was eager to fasten upon him—a compulsory duel involves the hero of the romance in seemingly additional blood-shedding, and renders it, in the light wherein the matter is reported to Katherine, a matter of conscience to stand aloof from a lover imbued with kindred blood, even while she cannot bring herself to accept the addresses of his rival. The course of the story introduces us to palaces, priories, ramparts, camps and tented fields; and the heroine deports herself consistently as a meet child of a bold Borderer, such as might well prefer a gallant soldier and noble to an upstart favourite, who in the end gains his deserts, a gallows on Lauder Bridge. Among the characters of the romance, those of Margaret of Denmark, the brave wife of the timid, impulsive James III.; the Abbot Panther, a priest politician of the type of those whose coat-of-mail was apt to rattle under their cassocks; and in a lower stratum of society, Wild Will Craig, Gordon's faithful retainer, and his hound, Stark, deserve most credit for thoughtful and studied delineation, and it is easy to see that like pains have been bestowed upon the high-vaulting aspirant, Cochrane, for whose complicity with the murder of the Earl of Mar access has been had to history.

*Under the Will and other Tales* strikes the habitual novel-reader with the same sense of outwitting as the discovery some years back that a popular authoress's title, *Nothing New*, of a forthcoming three-volumes strictly described a collection of lighter and shorter tales from magazines. Miss Hay has, doubtless, won favour by her *Old Myddelton's Money*, but it is a dangerous strain to adventure on the device adopted to float *Under the Will*, more especially as the name-giving story strikes us as one that we have met with before in recent magazine literature, and one that on the score of its sketchy want of finish it is not easy to forget. The plot consists of the emigration of two fellow-pupils, Charles Mostyn and Alan Fielding, to Venezuelan

Guayana with land-warrants issued by a Mrs. Matherson's company, in the hope of winning fortunes in an Eldorado which shall enable them to return to the home of their earliest recollections, the parsonage of their tutor, Mr. Wynne, to whose daughter, Hope Wynne, the first and most sanguine of the emigrants is engaged. The scheme turns out one of the most outrageous and criminal bubbles. The defrauded emigrants, stricken with fever and ague, die daily in the swamps and bush, where provisions fail them, and hope by degrees deserts the most sanguine-hearted. Only when Charles and Alan have hired a canoe to quit the settlement, which is a "lucus a non lucendo," does the former chance upon a stray scrap of a newspaper advertising for him as "heir to an old uncle, a former Glasgow merchant." Anon a stranger calls at an English lawyer's office, exhibits documents which prove Charlie Wynne's title to the legacy "under the will," tells the tale of the suffering and famished colony, and, having got possession of the inheritance, hurries back to Venezuela to rescue his fellow-settlers, and erect a monument to his especial comrade. It turns out in the sequel that it is Alan who has obtained the legacy in the deceased Charlie's name, a fact which reflects small credit on Messrs. Cotes and Fane, solicitors of Lincoln's Inn; and as for the betrothed Hope Wynne, the swamp and the fever seem to have been deemed by the authoress a sufficient excuse if from the time of the departure of the emigrants "Oh no! we never mention her." A short tale "My Only Novel," in the second volume seems to show by its slender, shifting construction that Miss Hay's *forte* is not concatenation of incidents. The reader oscillates between "Fat Boys" and "Only Novels" with a puzzlement arising from reluctance to believe that a smart and not unobservant writer means no connexion between them. A brief tale of a belfry, entitled "Locked In," in the third volume exhibits some elements of the comic vein, which is the better feature in "My Only Novel." But—to select from so large a choice of tales—we must be content to pronounce that the true bent of Miss Hay's genius, as developed in this *olla podrida*, is in the direction of stories of old houses and castles having a tragic event connected with them—such, for instance, as "Told in the Picture Gallery," or "Sir Rupert's Room."

The third novel on our list is a not uninteresting tale by an obviously young hand. It can hardly be called a novelette, being barren of all love-passages, and perhaps its ambition would be to pass for a "story with a purpose." Godfrey Mainwaring, the hero, runs away from Dr. Dibdin's school at the age of seventeen, and avails himself of a steerage-passage to Melbourne immediately after learning that his father and mother have died of fever in Australia, leaving him and an elder sister penniless. As his father's English banker, Mr. Price, had offered to defray Godfrey's school expenses, and to take him into his office on his leaving school, it was certainly "a false step" to take French leave to "cross the herring;" and throughout three hundred pages we are kept

in mind of this by a series of mishaps occurring to him, out of which he emerges with wonderful success, considering that they are regarded as Providential corrections. From the wreck of the burning ship he escapes, and saves his captain; and when the little band who were cast on a desert island were like to perish of starvation, Godfrey, after being rescued by the Newfoundland dog, "Rollo," from being engulfed in a quicksand, saves his companions by discovering a cavern stored with provisions by the forethought of a young Price, the son of his father's London banker, who had made just such another "false step" before him. After reaching Melbourne, and finding that his sister has left, our hero is out of luck for some little time, until he falls ill under the friendly roof of Charles Fryer, a wood-splitter, near whose station in the next September the flooding of the River Goulburn, opportunely for Godfrey, affords him the means of saving a certain settler, Mr. Hamilton, of Wauregarwan's, life, just when he was in imminent peril of losing his own. For this service he is installed as tutor to Mr. Hamilton's two boys, and this gives him a grand field for airing his knowledge of natural history at such times as he is not otherwise engaged—e.g., at getting out of the bush into which he has been lured by a bushranger; or rescuing his two pupils from perils into which the dreaminess of the one and the inconsiderateness of the other led two not ill-disposed lads. Of course all ends "first-rate;" the hero going to complete his own and his pupils' education at the "modern" and Northern Athens, at the same time that his friend the wood-splitter returns to England to take possession of a fine estate, the heir of which had been advertised for. Our only objections to *A False Step* are that the hero is a kind of colonial cross between Lewis Arundel and Charles O'Malley; and that upon being installed as a tutor in an Australian station, the author thinks to make up for his youth by his preternatural didacticism. JAMES DAVIES.

## CURRENT LITERATURE.

We must reserve a longer notice of Mr. John E. B. Mayor's edition of *The English Works of John Fisher, Bishop of Rochester*, till the second and, as we may judge, concluding volume shall have appeared. In the advertisement on the cover of the volume we observe that this first instalment is called "Part I. The Text," as if the next volume were to consist of prolegomena and notes. But there are other English works of Fisher's which do not appear here. And the Latin works of the saintly Bishop of Rochester are at least as valuable as those in the vernacular. We trust the Early English Text Society may see their way to admitting these also into their Extra Series. The editor in his Preface confines himself to drawing attention to some notable passages in the different treatises here produced, and it seems to us it would have been wise in doing so to adopt modern spelling, which would have been more attractive to the only class of people who would require such an analysis of the contents of the volume. Indeed, we should be glad to see the whole works reprinted without the servile copying of type and spelling which is uniformly adopted in this series. Fisher's works are of great intrinsic value, and would interest many readers who will be deterred from reading them by the form in which they appear. On the other hand, if it is desirable to

carry the copying of type to the extent which appears in these volumes, we should have been glad to see it consistently carried out by printing the colophons and devices of Wynkyn de Worde as they exist in the originals. For the bibliography of the works contained in this volume we have to wait for the General Preface, which we hope may appear somewhat earlier than Mr. Mayor's anticipations would lead us to expect.

*The Similes of Homer's Iliad, translated, with Introduction and Notes.* By W. C. Green, M.A. (Longmans.) The idea of putting in one's thumb and pulling out these plums from the *Iliad* impresses us at first unfavourably, as though it involved a wrong mode of dealing with the poem. But in reality the similes—commonly introduced with the form "As . . . so"—detach themselves easily from the surrounding matter, and when placed together they form a collection, as it were, of little cameos or intaglios of poetry. Mr. Green has made an interesting and beautiful volume. His renderings (which are in blank verse), if they do not delight us with the sudden luminousness of words new-created by genius to interpret the words of a brother-poet, are yet evenly excellent, pure and strong in choice of language and in the treatment of the verse. Mr. Green submits to the severe test of printing the Greek on one page and the English on the page opposite. He is particularly observant of the effect produced by the pauses in the original. The Introduction contains a little study of the Homeric simile, including a brief comparison of it with the simile of Biblical poetry, with that of Dante, and that of Spenser. "There are in the similes three points of resemblance between Dante and Homer. First, digressiveness, if I may so call it; a love of painting out the picture with details unnecessary to the comparison. Second, vividness and clearness. Third, homeliness; a selection of the commonest objects for illustration, if only they be suitable and forcible. In all these three points Dante is like Homer; and in the last point (if we except the Hebrew poets) Dante alone is like Homer." Mr. Green, after touching on the value of a study of the Homeric similes as a test of unity of authorship, concludes with the following words:—"But on this well-worn question I shall forbear to enter: and will only conclude by saying that an attentive consideration of the similes has left me more than ever what I was before—a believer in one great poet Homer." One specimen will fairly represent the general character and quality of Mr. Green's work:—

"Such watch the Trojans kept. Th' Achaean host  
Dread panic, comrade she of shuddering flight,  
Fast bound; and all the bravest and the best  
Were stricken sore with grief intolerable.  
And vexed and tossed as is the fishful main  
When north and west wind meet, two Thrace-born  
blasts,  
With sudden squall—The black waves tumbling  
crowd  
High heaped: the beach with tangle thick is  
strewn—  
So tossed, so vexed, their souls within them  
swayed.  
And stricken to the heart with mighty woe  
The son of Atreus ranged the camp, and bade  
The clear-voiced heralds to the council call  
Each man with several summons, not with shout;  
And in the task himself bore foremost part.  
They came and sat in council sorrowing:  
But Agamemnon rose and stood, whose tears  
Fell as the dropping of a deep black spring  
That down the steep cliff pours its waters dark,  
So he, sore groaning, 'mid the Argives spake."

MESSRS. ROBERTS BROTHERS, of Boston, have published *Syrian Sunshine*, by T. G. Appleton, an account of six weeks' travel in the Holy Land. The author appears to have brought no previous acquaintance with his subject and no learning to bear on it. The record of his journey is therefore very uninteresting. The chief feature in the book as a number of florid and high-flown digressions upon Spiritualism, in which the author undertakes

to prove the truth of Christian miracles, &c., by the hypothesis of Spiritualism.

*L'Abdicazione di Diocleziano.* Studio storico di Achille Coen. (Livorno.) When Diocletian descended from the throne to plant his cabbages in the retirement of Salona, the impressive act not only stirred the imagination of his age, but also bequeathed to history a problem which she has often tried to solve. Was it the mere weariness of absolute power which made him long to lay the burden down, and go in peace; or did the sense of failing vigour warn him to pass on his work to other hands while there was still time? Such at least were the motives readily assumed in ancient times, as they were also variously urged in other ages to explain the like acts of Sulla and of Charles V. Did the ambition of Galerius, his younger colleague, take advantage of a moment of depression and disease to force his wavering will, and drive him to resign? So runs the story in the tract "*De Mortibus Persecutorum*," whose ill-attested statements find little favour in the eyes of cautious critics. Had he pitted himself in an ineffectual struggle with the Christian Church, which stained his memory with blood, till he was at last fain to confess his failure by retirement, and to leave the future to his rivals? There is no solid evidence, indeed, for such a fancy; but prejudiced ecclesiastics have been often somewhat heedless in this subject of the rules of sober logic, and in this respect De Broglie and J. Ampère in our own days have reproduced with less excuse the passions and the triumph of the Church of the fourth century. Was it, as Burckhardt and others have urged, an essential part of the new scheme of imperial rule that the reins of power should be held only by strong hands, and that after twenty years of work each Augustus in his turn should find a Caesar to replace him? The hypothesis is bold enough, and there is no trace of such a theory in the pages of any ancient writer. To these more or less inadequate solutions the author of a recent essay has another of his own to add, which is at least ingenious, and seems to agree with the main data of the problem. He first explains the fourfold division of power between the two Caesars and the two who bore the higher title of Augustus, not only by the military needs of an unwieldy empire, but by the wish to define the order of succession and prevent the recurrence of past evils. For three centuries the occupants of the imperial throne had been elected, but the title to elect had variously rested with the ruler, the Senate, the populace of Rome, the Praetorian guards, and the legions of the frontier. Plots, assassinations, civil wars, and military licence had been the fatal outcome of this ambiguous title. They might haply be avoided if each Augustus named his younger Caesar to share his cares awhile, and then step into the place which he vacated; and a precedent for this might have been found in the age of the Antonines of happy memory. It remained to see how such a theory would work in practice, and its author, Diocletian, could only witness the issue of the new experiment by first relinquishing his throne, and forcing his old comrade to do likewise. If this was so, the new system soon failed hopelessly; the death of Constantine Chlorus broke up the concert, for his son, the ambitious Constantine, appealed to the old principle of popular election, and made good his title with the sword. Such in brief is the hypothesis suggested by the Italian writer, and supported both by clear reasoning and learned illustration.

*Perak and the Malays.* By Major F. McNair, late R.A. (Tinsley Brothers.) This is in many respects a painstaking book, and contains a good deal of information, the result of the author's long acquaintance with the land and people. His description of the general configuration of the country and of its natural features is clear and good. Like other residents, he thinks the Malay character has been maligned by the popular

verdict, and he attributes most of their faults to long misgovernment. He speaks of the introduction of Mohammedanism by the Arabs, with polygamy and its consequences, as an unmitigated evil. Here we can hardly follow him; the Arabs were not quite the mere Bedouin which he considers them, and the morality and social order they introduced were probably a considerable advance on the pre-existing state of things. In some respects the book is disappointing, and, indeed, rather heavy. The notices of the flora and fauna, for instance, and of the minerals, contain little, if anything, that is new to the ordinary reader. Various customs which he describes are only those common to other Eastern people, and of his advice to settlers we might remark that the use of flannel, of chlorodyne, and of Worcestershire Sauce conduces to our comfort in many parts of the world besides Perak. Again, the origin and relations of the race, and of their language, are wide questions, which to be worthily handled should be treated with more thoroughness and detail. The author relates the events which in 1874 made the name of Perak familiar to English readers—viz. the disturbances which led to the murder of the Resident, Mr. Birch, and the subsequent military operations. With personal knowledge of the subject, Major McNair still thinks that the system of maintaining a Resident at the native Courts to advise and interfere—in short, to exert "moral influence"—is a good one. We should have drawn a different moral from those events; but the system can only, at best, be one of transition. All our possessions on the Malay coast were acquired, we believe, by purchase; and it is said that the remaining chiefs would willingly accept mediation, which, in view of the responsibilities we have already assumed, would perhaps be the simplest solution of the problem.

#### NOTES AND NEWS.

WE learn that the Dean of St. Paul's has in the press a volume of Sermons preached before the University of Oxford in 1876-8, to which will be added three Ordination Sermons. Messrs. Macmillan and Co. are the publishers.

IN consequence of the illness of Prof. Volpé, who had been appointed to deliver the Barlow Lectures on Dante, the Council of University College, London, have appointed Mr. Charles Tomlinson, F.R.S., to deliver them this spring. The course will consist of twelve lectures to be given in the College on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 3 p.m., commencing on Thursday, April 25, and will be open to the public of both sexes without payment.

MR. W. M. ROSSETTI writes to us:—"Will you allow me to correct, through your pages, a stupid blunder which appears, I regret to say, in all the three editions of Shelley with which I have had to do, and, I believe, in all editions whatsoever? It was pointed out to me the other day by an illustrious poet. In the brief poem, *Similes for Two Political Characters* of 1819, the second stanza begins with these words, as printed:—

'As two gibbering night-birds flit  
From their bowers of deadly *hue*  
Through the night to frighten it.'

The word *hue* ought to be *yew*; and as soon as this is pointed out, it almost seems as if anybody except an editor of the poems could see as much for himself. The poem was first printed, about fifty years ago, by Medwin in the *Athenaeum*, and there the word is correct (*yew*); but in every subsequent reprint, including Medwin's own, *hue* has been palmed off upon the reader."

WE regret to find that the Working Men's College, in Great Ormond Street, is not yet, after nearly twenty-five years' trial, able to pay its way. The income of 1877 failed to clear off the balance of 78*l.* 15*s.* against it at the beginning of the year, notwithstanding the receipt of donations



and subscriptions amounting to 115*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.* The capital account is more cheering, as there is only a debt of 675*l.* on property that must be worth 4,000*l.* or more. The college needs a large accession of students to set it in good working condition, and a gift of a thousand pounds to free it from debt and enable it to make some needed improvements in its rooms.

MR. ALEXANDER SMITH, of Glasgow, the Honorary Secretary of the Hunterian Club, has reprinted in a handsome quarto for private circulation the amusing play of *Nobody and Somebody*, which the late Mr. Richard Simpson included in his *School of Shakspeare*. The cuts of Nobody, all legs (and head) and no body, and of Somebody, with his big body and "no legs to speak of," are very good. Mr. Smith, too, has been able to date the play, by means of Mr. Arber's invaluable *Transcript of the Stationers' Registers*, which, at vol. iii., p. 316, gives the entry:—

"12" Martij 1606.

"John Trundell. Entred for his Copie vnder the handes of Master WILSON and the Wardens A Booke called *no bodie and some bodie*, &c. . vj*d.*" On January 8, 1606, had been entered "The picture of No bodye."

MESSRS. GRIFFITH AND FARRAN will publish shortly *Bonnie Lesley*, a story for girls, by Mrs. Herbert Martin; a translation by Miss Harriet Poole of Mlle. Laroque's *Grands et Petits*, with illustrations by Bertall; and new editions of *Little Lisette and Clement's Trial and Victory*, by M. E. B.

CAPTAIN GAMBIER, author of "The Life of Midhat Pasha" in a recent number of the *Nineteenth Century*, is about to publish through Messrs. C. Kegan Paul and Co. a small book on Servian History. His aim is to call attention to the possible fate of a small and struggling nation which he holds to be destined to play a great part in the solution of the Eastern Question, and whose interests it is impossible to sever from those of the British Empire.

THE author of *Johannes Olaf*, which met with so much success in Germany, has just written a new novel called *Still Life in Troublous Times*. The story is laid during the Napoleonic occupation of Germany, and presents a charming mixture of fact and fiction.

THE Philosophic Faculty of the University of Zürich has just conferred the degree of Doctor Philos. Honoris Causa on Mr. T. T. Wild, formerly of the scientific staff of H.M.S. *Challenger*, and author of the recent work *Thalassa*, embodying some of the results of that expedition.

A NEW weekly paper has appeared in Florence called *La Rassegna Settimanale*. It is of the same scope and character as the *Saturday Review* in England, and though largely political, it admits occasional essays and reviews of books. It is a new experiment in Italian journalism, and was set on foot by some of the younger professors of the University of Florence.

THE long-expected preliminary volume of Meyer's *Geschichte des Schweizerischen Bundesrechtes* is announced for publication early in March.

THE Library Association of the United Kingdom—the permanent outcome of the late Conference of Librarians—has commenced its monthly meetings, which will be held for the present at the London Institution, on the evening of the first Friday in each month. All persons interested in library-management are eligible for election. The first annual meeting will be held at Oxford, in the autumn.

LIBRARIANS and owners of libraries will be glad to hear that a dépôt for "library-supplies" has been opened by Mr. Trübner, whom the American Library Association have appointed their agent. His first consignment includes a number of the revolving bookcases of which the only one then in Europe was so much admired at the Conference.

THE writings of the late Fritz Reuter earned for the "Plattdütsch" dialect so high a place in modern literature that it is probable many will be glad to know that "Willem Schröder" has published a cheap little biography of the great German Chancellor in that particular "Mundart." *De Plattdütsche Bismarck* is intended to be a people's book, has capital illustrations ("30 fine Billers uutstaeft van Hermann Lüders"), and only costs two marks. In the form of a talk among the members of a Bauern-Club in the village of Gröpel in Lüneburg, it gives a sketch of the history of the Prince's ancestors, and a lively and humorous narrative of his own eventful life, or, as it is put in the work itself, the tale "van Bismarck, mit Allen, wat dran bummelt un bammelt." It is published by Otto Spamer, of Leipzig. The language will offer few difficulties, and will perhaps afford some philological instruction to those who have stumbled their way through the strange varieties of the locally distant but philologically near "Schweizerdütsch" in the novels of Bitzian or the tales in the Swiss Kalendars.

M. DE LA REVILLA makes two contributions to the *Revista Contemporanea* of January 15: one contains part of the Introduction to his translation of the philosophical works of Descartes; the other, a criticism of Juan Valera, the author of *Pepe Jimenez*, to whom he allows learning and talent and grace, but neither sensibility nor genius. Estassen gives the first article of a "Study of the Evolution of Religious Institutions," following the school of Darwin. Rouget calls attention to Borrell's *Tratado teórico y practico de dibujo* as an excellent guide to archaeology in Spain, and a far better book and of wider range than its title would indicate. Arenas has a noble sonnet on the struggle of Hercules and Antaeus as a type of the secular contest of Good and Evil in the universe; and P. Gener a bitter polemical review of the opening discourse of the President of the Athenaeum of Barcelona.

A NUMBER of eminent citizens of Geneva, representing eighty different Societies of the City and Canton, have just held a preliminary meeting to make arrangements for the Rousseau-centenary, which is to be celebrated on the anniversary of his death, July 2. A committee of twenty-five members was nominated, who have the power of adding others to their number, and to whom the entire management of the festival is entrusted. It is proposed to extend the celebration over three days, from June 30 to July 2, giving the first day an exclusively scientific and literary character, and making a "People's Festival" of the second day, and a "Juvenile Festival" of the third. Orders have been given for the design and engraving of a commemoration medal.

A REVIEW of Catholic periodical literature has for the last two years been published by Woerl of Würzburg. This year the work embraces a wider field, including not Europe only, but all the quarters of the globe. The reviewer accompanies his work with critical observations, and, as in every case where it is possible the number of each periodical's circulation is given, a tolerably comprehensive glance may be obtained from it into one side of the Church's activity. In Germany, as might be expected, the Ultramontane press flourishes most in Bavaria, where it possesses not less than seventy-six organs, and *abonnements* to the number of nearly four millions. It is observable that the number of periodicals rises everywhere in proportion to the force with which a *Culturkampf* is waged in the country. For example, the one million of Catholic Swiss have fifty journals with considerable circulations, while Austro-Hungary, with thirty times as many Catholics, has only ninety. Belgium, with its 117 journals and reviews, carries off the palm from all other countries, while in Catholic Spain the Catholic press is starved, and even in France it makes comparatively but a poor show. Of the 1,400,000 copies of papers daily issued

in Paris, only 56,000 are, according to the Catholic reviewer, "good," while 344,000 are "moderate," and a whole million are "horrible." In Italy their case appears still worse, for want of capital. Scarcely one-fourth of the few Catholic daily papers, we are told, can support themselves by their own resources without the support of some rich patrons. The greater number have a circulation only of from four to five hundred. As to the strength of their editorial staff the reviewer remarks that "in many offices there is no one who understands the French language, from whence it arises that the strangest misconceptions as to the conditions of foreign countries are prevalent among the readers of Catholic papers, because the editors themselves are wholly in the dark on these matters."

THE New York *Nation* announces the union of the two firms of H. O. Houghton and Co. and J. R. Osgood and Co., under the name of Houghton, Osgood and Co.

ERRATUM.—P. 165, col. c, line 22—for "Viola," read "Olivia."

#### FOREIGN REVIEWS OF ENGLISH BOOKS.

LANE'S Arabic-English Lexicon. Book I. Part 6. Ed. Stanley Lane Poole. *Revue Critique*, January 28. By H. Derenbourg.  
THOMSEN, V. Relations between Ancient Russia and Scandinavia. *Revue Critique*, February 23. By L. Léger.

#### OBITUARY.

THE Rev. John Wood Warter, B.D., the learned and accomplished vicar of West Tarring, died on the 21st ult. He was born in 1806, and graduated B.A. of Christ Church, Oxford, in 1827. In 1834 he was instituted to the vicarage of West Tarring, having previously served from 1829 to 1833 as chaplain to the British Embassy at Copenhagen. The picturesque village of Tarring is famous for the remains of the ancient palace of the Archbishops of Canterbury, the fig-trees which Bishop Richard of Chichester grafted with his own hand, and for the birthplace of John Selden, the great English legist. Mr. Warter's affection for the parish prompted him to publish in 1860 two gossiping volumes, full of antiquarian interest (entitled *The Seaboard and the Down*), on its varied attractions in rural beauty and historic association. A few years later he issued a companion volume of *Parochial Fragments*, containing more detailed particulars of the careers of Archbishop Becket and Selden. Having married the eldest daughter of the poet Southey, he devoted the leisure hours of many years of his life to editing the literary remains of his father-in-law. The sixth and seventh volumes of *The Doctor*, and in 1848 the whole work in one volume, were issued under his care. He was also responsible for the publication of the contents of Southey's *Commonplace Book* (1849-50) in four huge volumes, and *Selections from Southey's Letters* (1856, four vols.), the last being a continuation of Cuthbert Southey's volumes of his father's correspondence. The late Mr. Warter's religious and political opinions might have been modelled on those of his distinguished father-in-law. In 1844 he published two volumes of *Plain Practical Sermons*, and at various times he printed single sermons which he had preached at the consecration of new churches. His attachment to the principles of the Church of England, as opposed to what he considered the distinctive doctrines of the Roman Church, drew from him a *Pastoral Letter on the New Roman Catholic Aggression* (1845), and a *Plain Protestant's Manual* (1851).

THE Rev. Robert George Baker, Vicar of Fulham from 1834 to 1871, died at Ivy Cottage, Fulham, on the 21st ult., in his ninetyeth year. He graduated at Trinity College, Cambridge, in 1810. Bishop Blomfield showed his appreciation of Mr. Baker's conduct in managing the episcopal parish of Fulham by appointing him to the Prebend of Reculverland in St. Paul's Cathedral in 1846. He published several sermons, the most important

being on the Christian duty of helping the poor to help themselves. His pamphlets entitled *Account of the Benefactions and Charities of Fulham* and *The Olden Characters of Fulham* (1847) contain some information not to be found in Faulkner's History of that parish.

#### NOTES OF TRAVEL.

IN the latest part of the *Proceedings* of the Berlin Geographical Society (No. 10, vol. iv.) Herr J. M. Hildebrandt gives an account of his attempt to reach the snow-clad Mount Kenia in Eastern Equatorial Africa, to which we have before referred. Speaking of the causes of failure he says:—

"In Kitui (a village in Ukambani) I had to contend against the greatest prejudices, for in Krapf's unfortunate journey to the Tana, which he made in 1851 in company with the chief Kivoi, the latter was killed by the Kitu robbers. The blame of this was laid to the account of the missionary, who was said to have worked a wicked spell with his black implement—his pocket Bible. As a brother European this guilt was transferred to me. . . . Only three days' march from my station rose the great snow-capped Kenia. From one point, indeed, I was able to determine the important angle from Kenia to Kilimnjaru. But these three last marches were impossible, for the Wakwafi, shortly before my arrival, had slaughtered a caravan of 1,500 armed Arabs to the very last man. . . . With my small escort, it was, therefore, out of the question to try to force a passage, and I consequently tried to enter into friendly negotiations, sending forward presents of beads, &c. . . . On the third day my messengers returned, still panting with fear and hurry. . . . They had seen the Wakwafi, and fled, throwing away both their presents and provisions in their haste to escape."

Petermann's *Mittheilungen* for March brings a very remarkable map representing Europe in the two glacial periods, compiled by Herr Habenicht. This with its accompanying paper is a continuation of a former essay on the distribution of the sedimentary formations in Europe, and the series will be completed by a study of the eruptive and metamorphic rocks of the continent, the three being intended to give, for the first time, a clear, general idea of the geological structure of Europe.

AN excellent paper in the same number, by Dr. J. van Bebbet, will be interesting to meteorologists as giving a comparative view of the simultaneous weather-observations which are being made by each of the maritime nations of Europe at the present time, with a special account of the system adopted at the Hamburg Observatory and its outposts, which now extend from the west coast of Ireland to the Black Sea, and from Northern Scandinavia to the southmost point of Italy. Dr. Oscar Drude's essay on the geographical distribution of palms is completed in this part; and we have also a sketch of the history of exploration on the West-African river Ogowe, with a map of De Brazza's surveys there during 1876-77.

NEWS reached St. Petersburg a short time ago by way of Semipalatinsk that the Asiatic traveller, Colonel Prejevalsky, had been laid up by illness for two months at Guchen, and was obliged on this account to return to Zaisan for medical aid. The illness is not a dangerous one, and on his recovery he intends to proceed with his expedition to Tibet.

THE reports, first of the death of Marquis Aninori, the leader of the Italian African Expedition, and afterwards of his return to the coast at Zeyla on his way to Europe appear to have been both untrue. Letters bearing date November 28, 1877, written by him from Mahal-Monza in Shoa, have recently been received by the Italian Geographical Society. His second in command, Captain Martini, is on his way home, and by last accounts had reached Aden. The Gessi-Matteucci expedi-

tion, on its way from the Nile valley to Shoa, was to leave Khartum on January 1, going by the Blue Nile, Fazokli, and the Tumut to the Sobat river, and thence upward through the unknown country.

MR. W. H. DALL, of the United States Coast Survey, is writing a full account of the Aleutian Islands for the *Journal* of the Bremen Geographical Society. The first part of it, now published, gives a sketch of the former Russian and American explorations in this region, up to that of the United States Coast Survey officers in 1871-74. The geological formation, flora and fauna of the islands are also discussed.

IN his Monthly Report for March, Dr. Behn notes that a hitherto-unknown region of the west coastland of South Africa, lying north-west of Herero Land and south of the Cunene river, was traversed in June and July last year by two members of the Rhenish mission, J. Böhm and F. Bernsmann; and that the manuscript map which they have now sent home contains a great amount of new geography. This north-western country is named Kaoko, and appears to be very thinly peopled, though it is not unfertile.

By the French Budget it is proposed to devote 170,000 francs to the service of the "Missions Scientifiques" during the present year. This sum will be distributed as follows:—30,000 fr. to MM. André and Angot in California; 40,000 fr. to M. Roudaire in aid of his work in Algeria; and 100,000 fr. to the Abbé Debaize to defray the expenses of his explorations in Central Africa.

IT is stated that during the spring a Russian expedition will endeavour to make ethnological investigations among the Vogels and Ostyacs of the Obi and Irtysh rivers.

M. SOLEILLET, whose work entitled *L'Afrique Occidentale* was alluded to in the ACADEMY a short time back, is preparing to start for the Senegal, in order to undertake a journey of exploration to Timbuktu and on the Niger. M. Soleillet, we believe, even entertains hopes of being able to reach Algeria.

A WORK which is of considerable geographical interest at the present moment is now being printed at Madrid in the shape of the recently-discovered account of the travels of an unknown Spanish missionary in the fourteenth century. The author is said to have made several long journeys in Africa between 1320 and 1330. He appears to have travelled much on the west coast, going as far south as Dahomey, and to have made a journey from the mouth of the Senegal for a considerable distance into the interior. During the period named he also traversed Dongola, and found his way down the Nile to the Mediterranean.

A DUTCH company has recently obtained from the Khedive the right of draining Lake Mareotis, by which means it is hoped that some 75,000 acres of land may again be brought under cultivation. Should the experiment be successful, it is proposed to plant the land thus regained with vines, for which the district was formerly famous.

THE newly published *Bulletin* of the Société de Géographie de Paris, which is an unusually interesting number, contains among other matter M. J. B. Paquier's second paper on the Pamir plateau and Kashgaria; "Itinéraire de Chung-king à Yunnan-foo," by M. Rocher; an account by Colonel Chanoine of "Les Travaux Géodésiques" of the Russian Geographical Society in Asia; a letter from M. Ch. de Ujfalvy, giving geographical, archaeological and statistical information respecting the province of Kuldja; as well as the address delivered by Captain Ernest Mouchez, Vice-President of the Society, in the place of Admiral de la Roncière le Noury, at the general meeting in December last.

AN Anthropological Society has just been founded at Havana in connexion with that of Madrid.

WE hear that it is proposed to found a chair of Demography at Moscow.

#### THE SWISS ALPINE CLUB.

IN September of this year the Swiss Alpine Club will hold its annual assembly at Interlaken. The Section Oberland intends to mark the gathering in its own special district by opening an Alpine Exhibition. Some years ago the editor of the *Alpenpost* attempted to found an "Alpinum" with a permanent exhibition at Zürich, but without success. Last year an Alpine Exhibition was held at Gmunden in Upper Austria; it appears to have met with general approval, and many articles were sent to it by Swiss Alpinists. Interlaken is perhaps the fittest spot in the whole world for such an undertaking, and the arrangement has apparently been placed in capable hands. The Section Oberland state in their programme that only articles of proved usefulness and of the best quality can be received. All articles offered for exhibition will be subjected to the scrutiny of a jury of experts. The programme suggests the following as fit objects for the exhibition:—1. Tourist-clothing—head-coverings, boots, plaids, stockings, gloves, &c. 2. General Alpine panoply—hand-bags, riding-saddles, field-seats, straps, and other leather articles: alpenstocks, ice-axes, hammers, and metal articles: hammocks, ladders, and various rope articles: lanterns, drinking-vessels, flasks, lights, cases of instruments, drawing and painting materials. 3. Eatables and drinkables—biscuits, condensed soups, chocolate, &c. 4. Cooking and heating apparatus for club-huts, pocket cooking-apparatus. 5. Field-medicine and surgery—homoeopathic and allopathic preparations, compresses, charpie, material for staunching blood, &c. 6. Models and plans for club-huts—their environment, building, and furnishing. 7. Art and art-industry—drawings and photographs of the higher mountains, panoramas, reliefs, maps (geographical, topographical, geological, and hydrographical); instruments and apparatus for scientific researches—optical, physical, time-measurers, and way-measurers. 8. Collections from the departments of geology, mineralogy, zoology, and botany. 9. Alpine literature, travel-handbooks, science, entertaining reading. If the actual exhibition should correspond to the plan laid down, it will leave nothing to desire in its range and many-sidedness, and will prove an additional attraction to Interlaken, although the time during which it is proposed to keep it open seems ridiculously short—only a fortnight. A conference of delegates from all the sections of the Swiss Alpine Club will shortly take place at Bern, and we hear that some intend to propose that the exhibition shall remain on view during the whole tourist-season.

#### SELECTED BOOKS.

##### General Literature.

- DU CAMP, Maxime. *Convulsions de Paris*. T. 1. Paris: Hachette. 7 fr. 50 c.  
 GIDEL, C. *Nouvelles études sur la littérature grecque moderne*. Paris: Mouton. 1 fr. 50 c.  
 GILL, W. F. *The Life of Edgar Allan Poe*. Chatto & Windus. 7s. 6d.  
 HOPKINS, E. *Life and Letters of James Hinton*. C. Kegan Paul & Co.  
 JAMES, H. *French Poets and Novelists*. Macmillan. 8s. 6d.  
 MAILLET, H. C. *De la démocratie dans ses rapports avec l'économie politique*. Paris: Guillaumin. 7 fr. 50 c.  
 MILLER, E. *History and Doctrines of Irvingism*. C. Kegan Paul & Co. 25s.  
 O'NEEDY, Théophile de. *Poésies posthumes de*. Paris: Charpentier. 3 fr. 50 c.  
 THAUSING, M. *Michelangelo's Entwurf zu dem Karton der Schlacht bei Cascina*. Leipzig: Seemann. 2 M.  
 TISSOT, Victor. *Vienne et la vie viennoise*. Paris: Dentu. 3 fr. 50 c.

##### Theology.

- HAUSERATH, A. *David Friedrich Strauss u. die Theologie seiner Zeit*. 2. Thl. Heidelberg: Basermann. 6 M.



## History.

CROZALS, J. de. *Laufranc: sa vie, son enseignement, sa politique*. Paris: Sandoz & Fischbacher. 7 fr. 50 c.  
 PERLBACH, M. *Quellen-Beiträge zur Geschichte der Stadt Königsberg im Mittelalter*. Göttingen: Peppmüller. 6 M.  
 SPIEGEL, F. *Eränische Alterthumskunde*. 3. Bd. *Geschichte, Staats- u. Familienleben, Wissenschaft u. Kunst*. Leipzig: Engelmann. 13 M.

## Physical Science.

HARCKEL, E. *Die heutige Entwicklungslehre im Verhältnisse zur Gesamtwissenschaft*. Stuttgart: Schweizerbart. 1 M.  
 TOULA, F. *Geologische Untersuchungen im westlichen Theile d. Balkan u. in den angrenzenden Gebieten*. IV. Wien: Gerold's Sohn. 5 M.

## Philology, &amp;c.

ABEL, C. *Zur ägyptischen Etymologie*. Berlin: Liepmannssohn. 1 M. 60 Pf.  
 CLEHMONT-GANNEAU, Ch. *Le Dieu Satrape; ou, les Phéniciens dans le Péloponnèse*. Paris: Leroux. 3 fr. 50 c.  
 FIEGNER, F. *De nominibus graecis cum praepositione copulatis capita selecta*. Leipzig: Hinrichs. 1 M. 20 Pf.  
 KONSTAS, L. G. C. *Ilupersis nach Stesichorus*. Berlin: Calvary. 1 M. 20 Pf.  
 OVERBECK, J. *Griechische Kunstmythologie*. Besonderer Thl. 2. Bd. 3. Thl. 4. Buch: Demeter u. Kora. Leipzig: Engelmann. 12 M.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

MACBETH A GOOD CHURCHMAN.

1 Oppidans Road, N.W.: February 23, 1878.

It may be a satisfaction to some minds to be assured that, after all, Macbeth was a good Churchman. Shakspeare has overlooked this side of his character, though Holinshed has recorded it, and the fact is verily so, as was long since remarked by Mr. J. H. Burton. What I wish now to point out is the mention of Macbeth in this aspect in a famous Elizabethan work—even in *Laws of the Ecclesiastical Polity*. "Will any man deny that the Church doth need the rod of corporal punishment to keep her children in obedience withal? Such a law as Macabeus made among the Scots that he which continued an Excommunicate two years together and reconciled not himself to the Church, should forfeit all his goods and possessions." Keble's note quotes from Boece the Latin of this as Hooker thinks commendable enactment:—"Qui pontificis auctoritatem annum totum execratus contempserit neque se interim reconciliarit, hostis reipublicae habebitur; qui vero duos annos in ea contumacia perseverarit fortunis omnibus multatur." JOHN W. HALES.

## TRANSLATION OF LESSING'S "LAOCOON."

London: February 25, 1878.

A note in Mr. Sime's recent valuable work on Lessing (vol. i., p. 308), enumerating English translations of the *Laocoon*, speaks of one in 1853 by E. Beesley. This is a slight inaccuracy. The translation of 1853, which is careful, scholarly, and idiomatic, is by E[dward] C[alvert] Beasley. There is prefixed a short Introduction by Dr. Burbidge, then Master of Leamington College. The book was printed and published at Rugby, by Messrs. Crossley and Billington. Messrs. Longmans were the London publishers.

SHADWORTH H. HODGSON.

## "MARMORNE."

Boisvilliers: February 24, 1878.

When a novel depends for its interest chiefly on the development of its plot, it is generally understood to be a breach of literary *convenances* on the part of a critic to tell the story in his own bare, brief way. Mr. Saintsbury has done this for (or against) *Marmorne* in the last number of the ACADEMY, and thereby has placed himself in striking contrast to most critics of the book, who have refrained with much delicacy from spoiling whatever interest the reader may find in it. Besides this, Mr. Saintsbury says "the author gives us to understand that his story is in the main true;" which is very inaccurate. The story of *Marmorne* is pure fiction with the exception of one single incident, the imprisonment; and even that, as I said in the Preface, took place under totally different circumstances. Mr.

Saintsbury says that "true stories are generally a snare to all but consummate workmen," implying that *Marmorne* is a true story, which it is not. Again, he says that "the author does not seem very much at home in French law." *Marmorne* has been read by Frenchmen: there are five or six pages about the book in the *Revue des Deux-Mondes* (February 15), and not a single Frenchman has raised the slightest objection to it on the ground of law. Mr. Saintsbury probably shares the usual English delusion that a French estate must necessarily be sold on the death of its owner, and the proceeds divided equally among his children. The law in *Marmorne* is accurate enough for the purposes of art, and the author of the book has too many French lawyers among his acquaintance to suffer the slightest embarrassment on any legal question. Lastly, it pleases your critic to say that the author is deficient in grasp of character, and he repeats the word very emphatically: "Character! character! character!" not seeming to be aware that there are two distinct classes of novels—character-studies and narratives. *Marmorne* is a simple narrative in which the painting of character, though not neglected, is nevertheless purposely subordinated to the story. ADOLPHUS SEGRAVE.

## GRIMM'S LAW.

## II.

London: February, 1878.

In my former letter I maintained that the facts upon which "High German" is admitted into "Grimm's Law" on a level with Sanscrit and General Teutonic are not sufficient, are comparatively modern, and are capable of other explanation.

1. They are not sufficient. According to the Law a General Teutonic (which I prefer as stating a fact that "Low German" disguises) "aspirate" ought to be a H. G. "soft" (voice); a Teutonic "soft" a H. G. "hard" (breath); and a Teutonic "hard" a H. G. "aspirate." But while in applying the law as between Sanscrit, &c., and General Teutonic, we find (waiving the point that the "aspirates" are not aspirates) normal regularity and obedience, in touching the H. G. we are at once confronted with caveats, qualifications, and exceptions without end. Thus the rule fails initially in Teut. "aspirate"=H. G. soft; for though TH becomes D (as it has a habit of doing all over the world), F never becomes B, nor H ever G. It is only, indeed, in positions where the real Teutonic sounds were not F and H, but V and Gh, that the change took place. *Fæder* did not become *Bater*, nor *hafoth*, *Gabod*, though *ofer*=*over* became *obar*, *ganoh*=*ganogh* became *genug*. This is, on the face of it, something very different from *FTU*=*BEU*, *HOMO*=*GUMA*. Then it fails also in Teut. "hard"=H. G. "aspirate," for while *c* becomes *ch* at end or middle of words, in all except a few outlying varieties of dialect, it remains *c* (*k*) initially; while *p* has become *f* (the general Teutonic "aspirate") finally, it remains *pf*, O.H.G. *ph*, initially; and above all, *T* has become no aspirate, but initially *ts*, sinking finally to *ss*, compounds or substitutes which have nothing akin to "aspiration" as used of the General Teutonic *th*, and which appear in "Grimm's Law" under that title only to muster apparent facts to pad out a theory a world too big for them. The fact is that, while the three Teutonic voice-letters *g*, *d*, *b*, shrink in H.G. into the voiceless *k*, *t*, *p*, the behaviour of the other six sounds is neither in accordance with "Grimm's Law," nor uniform among themselves.

2. But the High-German forms are recent; we have evidence to show that they came into being some centuries later than the Christian Era, and that therefore to class them with the mutations between Sanscrit and Teutonic generally, and spin theories for the co-existence of the three classes in the Aryan *hollethnos*, is historically absurd. Many Latin words were adopted by the Germans during their relations, warlike and

otherwise, with Rome; they are now found in all the Teutonic tongues, and in these they have the same changes as the original Teutonic words have. They were, therefore, in the common language before it fell into dialectal divisions. Now, the Old High German form of these words, as compared with the Latin and General Teutonic, presents the same *laut-verschiebung* as Teutonic words. Thus the Latin (*via*) *strata*, is in L.G. *strata*, A.G. *straete*, but O.H.G. *straza*, Mod. *strasse*; the Lat. *tabula*, L.G. *taft*=*tavf*, A.G. *taef*, is in O.H.G. *zabal*, just as Teut. *water*, A.G. *water*, is in O.H.G. *wazzer*, Mod. *wasser*. The same causes which made certain Southern speakers of German say *straza* for *strata*, *zabal* for *taft* (which we know to be a real change), made the same men say, and at the same time, *wazzer* for *water*, *zung* for *tunge*. So also the Latin *papa*, *pondo*, *campus* *calic(em)*, *draco*, L.G. *papa*, *pund*, *camp*, *celic*, *draca*, become in H.G. *pfapo*, *phunt*, *camph*, *kelih*, *tracho*: precisely the changes, and all the changes, which "Grimm's Law" deals with between General Teutonic and High German. The number of these examples might be multiplied, but it is unnecessary. What do they proclaim to him that hath ears to hear? That when Southern Germans heard *strata*, *papa*, *camp*, *draco*, they were unable to pronounce them, but must mangle them into *straza*, *pfapo*, *camph*, *tracho*? Nothing of the kind; on the contrary, they were fond of *p*, *t*, *k*, substituting them for *b*, *d*, *g*. That they had a "linguistic consciousness" that from the dispersion of the Aryan race they had used *ts* for L.G. *t*, *ph* or *pf* for L.G. *p*? Why not a "linguistic consciousness" of "Grimm's Law" itself, that Latin *k*, *t*, *p*=H.G. *g*, *d*, *b*, and that their words ought to be *strada*, *baba*, *gamb*? The suggestion is preposterous. What the facts proclaim is, that when these Latin words were adopted by the Germans, there was no High German dialect, or at least that it had not developed its consonant perversions; when at a later time, somewhere before the eighth century, that peculiar pronunciation of the Teutonic tongue arose, it assailed impartially Old Teutonic and recently-adopted Latin words. There were no philologists to point out the difference; it was a question of ears and mouths, not of derivation. Here also we dispose of the question whether Moeso-Gothic, the oldest form in which the Teutonic speech has been preserved, is High or Low German. It is neither or both: it is anterior to the division; and, therefore, the Goths, though presumably Southern Germans, who found themselves nearest to the confines of the Empire, knew nothing of the High-German consonant-changes; their tongue was "Low German"—i.e., common original Teutonic.

3. If asked why or how the altered pronunciation of High German arose, I look around me at present facts, and hear the Welshman in his first attempts at English say "Koot tay, koot shentleman!" or the Frenchman, "Dis tick vall;" I hear the consonant-changes which negroes or coolies make upon English; I see dialects like the Talkeetalk of Surinam, in which these changes are perpetuated. And reasoning from the known to the unknown, I have no difficulty in understanding how with the conquests of the Germans southwards their language may have been imposed on the original (say Slavonic) natives, from whose imperfect utterance the peculiar High-German pronunciation may have arisen. "Thih cot lopemes" in the O. H. G. *Te Deum* irresistibly suggests to me the Highland cateran's "Te shutshment tay! coot cot, Shon! tat pe coot long crettit; we'll een pe hafin' a pit for Shames too!" This was *laut-verschiebung* (and *eigenthum-verschiebung*, too). The Slavonic idea is strengthened by the nature of many of the changes, most of all by the change of *t* into *ts*, a change foreign to Teutonic, but common in West Slavonic, as seen for example in the common *gratz* for the older *grad* and *gorod*. I can imagine a people who did not possess the continuant series of *gh*, *dh*, *bh*, but substituted for them some form of *g*, *d*, *b*, as negroes put *dat* for Eng. *that*; as

Spaniards said and say *bibo* for *vivo*, *bos* for *vos*; or as Englishmen, to go no further afield, say *lock* for *loch*, *akos* for *akos*; that, to be distinct from these, the voice (soft) mutes were whispered as in *stadi*, *stab*, and, coming thus too near the breath (hard) mutes, the latter were forcibly jerked to keep them distinct, the jerk of *p* becoming *ph*, then *pf*, then (finally) *f*; that of *t* generating *ts*, sinking at length into *s*. As is well known, *pf* and *ts* still remain at the beginning of a syllable, but have sunk into *f* and *s* at the end, where the forcible utterance would be more difficult to maintain. Moreover, it is only in the most Southern fragments of O. H. G. literature that the chief changes take place. It is only in the frontier *patois* of Kero of St. Gallen, the Wessobrunner Gebet, Musspili, &c., that we find *cot*, *keist*, *kiporan*, *paum*, *plomo* (*Gott*, *Geist*, *Geboren*, *Baum*, *Blume*). Louis the German and Charles the Bald did not so speak; Otfried, Notker, the authors of *Hildebrand* and of the *Kaiserchronik*, did not so write: the "High-German" peculiarities on which Grimm founded his law are disowned by all the normal High-German writers.

I do not expect that this particular suggestion as to the origin of the High-German consonant-mispronunciation will satisfy everyone: it satisfies me, and I offer it as a solution which is possible, and which cannot be disproved. But I hold that it has been shown conclusively that the changes between General Teutonic and O. H. G. are not the same as those between Sanscrit and Teutonic; that they are later, derived, and dialectal; and that the attempt to show algebraically that General Aryan "hard" = General Teutonic "soft" = particular High German aspirate, all functions of each other, "none anterior to the other in time or superior in importance," is "the baseless fabric of a vision," and that "Grimm's Law," as concerns the relation between General Teutonic and its O. H. G. dialect, is a misapplication altogether. In conclusion I would add that the fact that the Old High German preserves many archaic grammatical forms which even Moeso-Gothic had dropped before the fourth century is perfectly consistent and harmonious with its altered consonantal system. The tendency to preserve archaic forms in transplanted dialects is well known. In the south-east corner of Ireland there existed to the present century a form of English introduced there by the first English settlers. While this outlying English of Forth and Bargo had undergone notable consonantal changes from contact with the native Irish, it had preserved Early English inflections, especially in the verb, such as we find in the *Ancient Rime* in the thirteenth century. Had no written specimens of Southern English before, say, the fourteenth century come down to us, this dialect would have been grammatically the oldest English known, but it would have been quite delusive to hold that its consonantal changes were equally ancient. It is, of course, worth consideration whether the proved derivation of the High-German forms from the General Teutonic may illustrate the earlier relations of Teutonic to Aryan in general; but in order that they may do so, we must understand what are the facts, and not manipulate formulae of equality in which symbols that purport to indicate certain fixed relations really disguise relations different alike in physical character and historic origin.

N.B.—Since writing the above I have found that the lateness of the High-German consonant changes, and the absurdity of dealing with symbols instead of sounds, were admirably shown in an article in the *Westminster Review* for July, 1872.

J. A. H. MURRAY.

#### ON THE ESSEX WORD "RELEET."

Cambridge: February 26, 1878.

The word *releet* is a well-known Essex word for a meeting of roads: a *two-releet* is a place where two roads meet; and a *four-releet* means a place

where four roads meet. It has been a puzzle to me for years, but at last I can account for it. We find, in Anglo-Saxon, the expressions "tô wega gelæstum," i.e., to the meetings of ways, Matt. xxii. 9; "æt þæra wega gelæte," at the meeting of the ways, Gen. xxxviii. 21. Bosworth's *Dictionary* also gives "twégra wega gelætu," meetings of two ways, from a copy of Aelfric's *Glossary*. Now, the A.-S. prefix *ge-*, as usual, counts for nothing, and the forms *lætum*, *læte*, *lætu*, may be substituted for the above. A place where two ways meet would thus be expressed by *twégra wega lætu*; and a place where four ways meet by *feowera wega lætu*. Of course *wega* was easily dropped; and hence *twégra lætu* is the A.-S. form of *two-releet*, and *feowera lætu* is a *four-releet*. The interesting point is that the prefix *re-* is due to the fact that the genitive plural of adjectives and numerals once ended in *-ra*. It is a splendid example of preservation of old grammar in a dialect. I may add that the simple form *leet* also occurs, in the sense of a meeting of cross-roads, in the South of England. The etymology is from A.-S. *lædan*, to lead. WALTER W. SKEAT.

#### APPOINTMENTS FOR NEXT WEEK.

- MONDAY, March 4.—2 P.M. Royal Institution: General Monthly Meeting.  
 5 P.M. London Institution: "The Ice Age in Britain," by Dr. A. Ramsay.  
 5 P.M. Musical Association: "On the Gallin-Paris-Chevé Method of Teaching considered as a Basis of Musical Education," by G. Bullen.  
 8 P.M. Victoria Institute: "Monotheism," by the Rev. Dr. Rule.  
 8 P.M. British Architects: Special General Meeting.  
 8 P.M. Society of Arts (Cantor Lecture): "Application of Photography to the Production of Printing Surfaces and Pictures in Pigments," by T. Bolas.  
 TUESDAY, March 5.—3 P.M. Royal Institution: "Protoplasmic Theory of Life," by Prof. A. H. Garrod.  
 7 P.M. Statistical: Adjourned Discussion on Mr. Mundella's Paper.  
 8 P.M. Civil Engineers: "The Hooghly Floating Bridge," by Bradford Leslie.  
 8.30 P.M. Zoological: "On the Crustaceans from the Coast of Comorand collected by Sir Walter Elliot," by C. Spence Bate; "Notes on some Coleoptera of the Genus *Plusiotis*," by A. Boucard; "On a small Collection of Lepidoptera obtained by the Rev. S. J. Whitmee at the Ellice Islands," by A. G. Butler.  
 8.30 P.M. Biblical Archaeology: "Chaldeans, Pelasgians, Hyksos and Celts," by E. de Bunsen; "On the Assyrian and Babylonian Names for Copper and Brass," by Prof. F. Lenormant.  
 WEDNESDAY, March 6.—7 P.M. Entomological.  
 8 P.M. British Archaeological: "Excavations on West Stow Heath," by H. Frigg; "Early Interlaced Crosses of England," by J. Romilly Allen.  
 8 P.M. Society of Arts: "An Electric Lamp-lighting System," by St. G. Lane Fox.  
 8 P.M. Microscopical. Geological.  
 THURSDAY, March 7.—3 P.M. Royal Institution: "Chemistry of the Organic World," by Prof. Dewar.  
 7 P.M. London Institution: "Chamber Music," I., by Prof. Ella.  
 8 P.M. Chemical.  
 8 P.M. Linnean: "On new Species of Nudibranchiate Mollusca from the Eastern Seas," by Dr. C. Collingwood; "Laws governing the Production of Seed in *Wistaria sinensis*," by T. Meehan; "On the Development of *Flaria sanguinis*," and "On the Mosquito considered as an intermediate Host," by Dr. P. Manson; "Fungi of the Arctic Expedition," by the Rev. M. G. Berkeley; "On the Life-history of *Flaria Bancrofti*," by Dr. T. Spencer Cobbold.  
 8.30 P.M. Royal. Antiquaries.  
 FRIDAY, March 8.—8 P.M. Astronomical. Quckett.  
 8 P.M. New Shakspeare Society: "On *As You Like It*," by H. Courthope Bowen.  
 9 P.M. Royal Institution: "Influence of geographical Circumstances on political Character," by Prof. Goldwin Smith.  
 SATURDAY, March 9.—3 P.M. Royal Institution: "Carthage and the Carthaginians," by R. Bosworth Smith.

#### SCIENCE.

*The Natural History and Antiquities of Selborne.* By the late Rev. Gilbert White. Edited by Thomas Bell, F.R.S., &c. In Two Volumes. (London: John Van Voorst, 1877.)

Two English prose-writers stand apart as interpreters of the poetry of rural life—Isaac Walton and Gilbert White. Of the latter's *Natural History of Selborne* an eminent naturalist and scholar has well observed that it is the only zoological work

which has gained for its author the position of an English classic. It is in truth not only a wonderfully clear and complete treatise on the natural productions of a typical English parish—it is a prose pastoral, musical with the song of birds, and fragrant with the breath of wild flowers. Once under the spell of Gilbert White, the Hanger and the hollow lane leading to Alton become our favourite haunts, and Timothy, the tortoise, is our ancient familiar friend. Under the guidance of the good old parson we learn the mysteries of rush-light making from a village dame; we visit the idiot boy who exercises such a strange mastery over bees; we listen to the sibilous shivering song of the *regulus non cristatus* in the high beechen woods, and search for the *herb Paris* in the Church Litten Coppice. Then, when the shades of evening begin to deepen, when the jarring notes of the churn-owl are heard and the vast great bats (still nondescript) are high in air, we return to the great parlour, to trace the history of the Priory from the days of Bishop de Rupibus downwards, and to discuss the latest works of Linnaeus and Scopoli. No other writer has done so much to make the study of nature popular in England, and it is no wonder that edition after edition of the *Selborne* has been called for, and that it has been revised and annotated by some of the best naturalists of the present century.

No former editor, however, has enjoyed such advantages as the veteran zoologist to whom the preparation of the present volumes has evidently been a labour of love. After a distinguished career in the front ranks of English science, Mr. Bell has made *Selborne* his retreat for more than thirty years, he has lived in White's own house, and has been entrusted with all the correspondence and unpublished notes which have been preserved by the family. Consequently he has been able, not only to edit White's writings with an intimate local knowledge of the scenes and objects described, but also to add largely to our knowledge of the "life and conversation" of the great field-naturalist.

The first volume of the present issue contains White's published works, including the *Natural History*, *Antiquities*, *Naturalist's Calendar*, *Observations*, and *Poems*, the text of the early editions being reproduced, and even the occasional peculiarities of spelling and the free use of italics being preserved. Unlike some previous editors, Mr. Bell has avoided overloading his pages with unnecessary and lengthy notes. Indeed, it appears to us that he has erred in the opposite extreme—for example, the error as to the hedgehog eating plantain-roots should surely have been corrected. An account of the re-planting of Wolmer Forest would have been of interest; and is Mr. Bell quite accurate when he says that the black grouse now found there are "not the result of any recent importation from other localities, but voluntary visitants"? That some may be so is not impossible, but Captain Feilden has recorded the fact that a number were imported when Sir Charles Taylor was ranger, and the man who brought them from Cumberland was still living at Liphook in 1872. On the whole, however, the notes, though brief, are to the point; and many of



them are interesting as showing the persistence with which some species frequent the exact localities which their progenitors affected a century ago.

The second volume is devoted to White's correspondence and to extracts from his sermons, account-books and "Garden Kalendar." To these are added lists of the more noteworthy animals and plants of the district, by the editor; a chapter on the geology, by Mr. W. Curtis; and an essay on Roman-British antiquities, by Lord Selborne. This last has already appeared in Mr. Buckland's edition, as have a few of the letters to the Barker family. Some of Linnaeus' letters to the Rev. John White have before been printed in the "Contributions to Ornithology," and the correspondence with Marsham was published in the *Transactions of the Norwich Naturalists' Society*, and in the second issue of Mr. Harting's edition; but the remaining contents of this volume are now given to the public for the first time. The correspondence does not contain any important observations which were not incorporated in the *Natural History* (except the record of the occurrence of the wall-creeper in England); but they throw a very pleasing light on White's intercourse with his relatives and his scientific friends. He writes mostly of family matters and of his own favourite pursuits, and only very rarely refers to public affairs; but the outbreak of the French Revolution draws from him the exclamation (in a letter to Marsham):—"You cannot abhor the dangerous doctrines of levellers and republicans more than I do! I was born and bred a Gentleman, and hope I shall be allowed to die such." Mingled with quaint Pepsian scraps of family life and village gossip—such as the arrival of his brother John's "curious box of birds, shipped in October, and Jack's shirts and sweetmeats;" and the record that "Rich. Butler the thatcher is going to enlarge his house"—we have bits of wise advice and shrewd observation. Many naturalists of to-day would do well to remember the warning, "Don't be too hasty in pronouncing any species a nondescript." And many publishers would agree in the recommendation to an intending author to "produce ingenious dissertations to entertain the unsystematic reader;" and endorse "Brother Ben's" advice to "have as many plates in your Fauna as possible; for it is the fashion now to look in picture-books." Altogether the correspondence confirms the world's estimate of Gilbert White, and shows him to have been a thoroughly loveable man, as well as an admirable essayist and an unequalled observer of nature.

Mr. Bell's edition is handsomely printed, and the plates illustrating White's house and favourite walks are well executed. We regret that no system of cross references has been adopted; that there is no separate index to the first volume, and that the general index is very incomplete. In every other respect these volumes are fitted to fill the hitherto vacant place of a standard edition of White's works, and are worthy of both the author and the editor.

EDWARD R. ALSTON.

#### ANGELO SECCHI.

ON Tuesday, February 26, died Father Secchi, the director of the Observatory of the Collegio Romano, and his death will be regretted in many circles as that of a zealous and industrious, and at the same time a genial, man of science. Born June 29, 1818, at Reggio (the town on the road between Parma and Modena), he entered in early youth the Order of the Jesuits, and received his education at their college near Loreto, and afterwards at their Georgetown college near Washington. At the latter institution he was for some time Professor of Physics and Mathematics, but was soon recalled to Italy and made Professor of Physics at the Collegio Romano at Rome. After the expulsion of the Jesuits, in 1848, Secchi travelled in France, England, and America; but was, after the restoration of the Pope, reinstated in his professorship, and superintended, some years later, the building of the new observatory of the Collegio Romano. The erection of a modern observatory on the top of a church appears at first rather strange and objectionable; but the circumstances were exceptional; the connexion with the college on the one side, the sanitary conditions of the neighbourhood of Rome on the other, rendered other devices undesirable, and the difficulty was then successfully solved by placing the new observatory on the top of some enormous pillars, which had been erected for the purpose of supporting a very lofty and massive dome, but had been left in an unfinished state. Provided with excellent instruments, Secchi has worked indefatigably in his new abode during the last quarter of a century. Hundreds of papers from his busy pen are to be found scattered in the scientific periodicals—the *Astronomische Nachrichten*, *Comptes Rendus*, *Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society*, Palomba's *Raccolta di Lettere*, Tortolini's *Annali*, the *Atti Accad. Nuov. Linc.*, *Il Nuovo Cimento*, the *Bibliothèque Universelle*, and others. They refer chiefly to observations of planets, comets, double stars, and to different branches of solar and stellar physics, photometry, photography, polarisation, &c., and they show that Secchi was fairly at home in several sciences. His observations were for a series of years published in the *Memorie dell' Osservatorio dell' Università Gregoriana del Collegio Romano*. In wider circles taking merely a general interest in science, Father Secchi is perhaps best known by his book *Le Soleil*, published in 1870. He had begun to publish some portions of it in Italian; but had also given some lectures on the subject during his visit to the Paris Exhibition of 1867, at the Ecole Sainte-Genève, which were received with so much applause and satisfaction that he was prevailed upon to prepare and publish the whole work in French, from which it has been translated into several other languages. If in some respects exception has been taken to the work, it may be mentioned that the author expressly states:—

"Nous ne nous bornerons pas à exposer nos propres travaux; nous prendrons le vrai et le beau partout où nous le trouverons. Mais nous n'énoncerons aucune opinion sans avoir vérifié par nous-même les faits sur lesquels elle repose; nous n'exposerons aucune théorie sans l'avoir constatée autant que le comporte la nature même du sujet."

The appearance of a new work of Secchi, *Le Stelle*, has been lately announced, and it is stated that his unpublished writings abound in matters of scientific interest.

The urbanity and geniality of his disposition gained Secchi many friends. It is reported that, when lately interrogated as to how he reconciled science and religion, he said: "In the former I follow Nature, in the latter the Pope." This saying vividly calls to mind the progress which this reconciliation has made even among the Fathers. When, in the last century, a predecessor of Secchi, Father Boscovich, Professor of Mathematics and Philosophy in the Collegio Romano, wrote his dissertation on Comets, he had to

guard himself against unpleasant consequences by writing in the following strain, which is well worth remembering:—

"Newtonus quidem terram movet. At nos sacrarum litterarum testimonia venerati et Sacrae Romanae Inquisitionis decretis obsequentes immotam statuimus, ejusque motum nonnisi in speciem tantum retinemus facillioris delineationis gratia, illud simul demonstrantes, sive terra circa solem moveatur, sive cum sole cometarum orbitae circa terram immotam circumferantur, eadem prorsus phaenomena provenire, eademque motuum causas, ac vires corporum perseverare."

However much it is to be regretted that Secchi should have been cut off in the midst of a most useful career, it is at least consoling that death has released him from the sufferings of a painful and incurable illness. A. MARTIN.

#### SCIENCE NOTES.

##### GEOLOGY.

*The Fossiliferous Rocks of Western Scotland.*—Much has lately been done by the labours of Prof. Judd to throw light upon the geological history of the West of Scotland and the neighbouring islands. Geologists, to be sure, have been acquainted for more than a century with certain scattered patches of fossil-bearing strata which take their place somewhere between the old Gneissic rocks and the masses of Tertiary lava in the Hebrides. But still the gaps in the series of strata have been so large and so numerous that the geological record in this part of the country has appeared extremely imperfect. Prof. Judd, however, has been able to show that not only is the Jurassic system represented with great completeness in the Western Highlands, but that many other Secondary rocks are associated with this system. It is true that neither the Upper Oolitic nor the Neocomian formation has yet been detected; but the Cretaceous strata are there, and, although not well situated for observation and not presenting any great thickness, are nevertheless of surpassing interest. At the base are marine deposits of Upper Greensand age, covered by strata of Chalk, from which, however, they are separated by sandstones, containing thin coal-seams. As to the Jurassic series, they may be traced in fragmentary patches which indicate what must once have been a most noble development of these rocks; indeed, the most stinted estimate can hardly assign to them a thickness of less than 3,000 feet. Some of these Jurassic strata are of extreme interest, and it would, in fact, be difficult to point to any spot in the British Isles which shows a better development of the Infra-Lias. But this is not all. The Poikilitic series—a name which has been conveniently revived of late years by Phillips, Woodward, and some other writers, to include all the rocks between the Coal and the Rhaetics, otherwise known as Permian and Triassic strata—has been discovered in the shape of conglomerates, marls, and sandstones reaching to a thickness of 1,000 feet. And in one locality Prof. Judd has had the good fortune to light upon true Coal-measures, consisting of sandstones, shales, and coal-seams, which contain the familiar *Lepidodendron*, *Sigillaria*, and other characteristic plants. Mr. Carruthers has pointed out that these vegetable remains leave no doubt as to the age of the rocks; they belong, indeed, to the upper and middle coal-measures. In fine, the rocks between the old Gneiss series and the Tertiary lavas, of which so little has hitherto been known, are now found to represent a series of strata having a total thickness little short of a mile. And yet the existence of this magnificent series is indicated only by a few scattered patches which by a combination of accidents have escaped destruction during the enormous amount of denudation which the country has suffered. Prof. Judd's researches have lately been laid before the Geological Society in continuation of his work on the *Secondary Rocks of Scotland*.

*The Old Man of Hoy.*—It may not be amiss to explain at once that Hoy is one of the Orkney Islands, and that the "Old Man" is a huge pillar of rock which has been worn away from the cliffs and now stands out at sea, all but completely isolated. Prof. Geikie has contributed to the February number of the *Geological Magazine* a pleasing article on the geological structure of this natural monument, so rarely visited by geologists, and yet so striking as an illustration of denudation. The "Old Man" is composed of yellow and red sandstone, almost horizontally stratified, belonging to the Upper Old Red series. This sandstone rests unconformably upon a base of older upturned strata, which belong to the Caithness flagstones. Between these strata and the sandstone there lies a thick band of dark-coloured amygdaloidal lava, forming, in fact, part of an old sheet which represents a local volcanic outburst in late Devonian times. It need hardly be added that Prof. Geikie's article, though but slight, is written in that peculiarly charming style of which the author is an acknowledged master.

*Relation of the Structure of Crocodiles to the Nature of their Prey.*—In a paper recently laid before the Geological Society, Prof. Owen called attention to the influence which might be exerted by the advent of a higher form of life in modifying the structure of an older and lower form. This he illustrated by reference to the history of the Crocodilia, and pointed out the structural changes which they had undergone, probably in relation to the altered character of their prey at different epochs. The author inferred that cold-blooded aquatic animals must have formed a larger proportion of the food of crocodiles of Secondary age than of those of later times. In the former the dorsal vertebrae are amphicoelian, or biconcave, like those of a fish; while in the latter they are procoelian, or concave in front. As the procoelian type is better fitted for rapid motion on land, it is suggested that it may have been connected with the advent of mammalian prey in the Tertiary period. Again, the Mesozoic crocodiles were encased in stronger armour than that worn by their successors. In fact, the Mesozoic forms needed pretty strong casings in order to protect them from the ichthyosaurs and other formidable saurians which lived in the same waters; while the procoelians required to be lightly clad in order to move rapidly on land in quest of mammalian prey. Further, the differences in the position of the palatofornices is apparently connected with differences in the character of their prey; and the backward position of these apertures in a post-Secondary crocodile would give it the power of holding a mammal submerged without itself suffering inconvenience. Even such massive-jawed crocodiles as the Purbeck species, *Goniopholis crassidens*, probably subsisted on a fish-diet, since they did not possess the palatal structure necessary to enable them to deal with active mammalian prey. Moreover, the strictly aquatic habit of the Mesozoic crocodiles is indicated by the shortness of their fore-limbs, which facilitated rapid swimming; while the larger limbs in the later forms are better fitted for progression on land. On the whole the structural characters of Tertiary and recent crocodiles evidently gave them an advantage over their predecessors in the capture of terrestrial prey.

*More New Tertiary Vertebrata from the Western Territories.*—Dr. Cope's zeal in vertebrate palaeontology is by no means flagging, as his recent publications on this subject sufficiently show. In several papers lately laid before the American Philosophical Society, copies of which have been forwarded to us, he describes a large number of new species, and a few new genera, obtained from the rich deposits in some of the Territories of the West. Many of the descriptions, though of interest to the scientific palaeontologist, are of too technical a character to need notice in these columns. More information is

given respecting the remarkable genus *Camarasaurus*, from the Dakota beds of Colorado. This monster, which is believed to have been the most bulky animal of which we have any record, possessed a very long neck and had large anterior limbs, whence it is concluded that though a Saurian, it may have resembled in general form and habit the giraffe. It thus differed from some of the later Dinosaurs, which are supposed to have elevated themselves on their hind limbs, in bird-like fashion, in order to reach the tree-tops on which they browsed.

*Geology of the Uinta Mountains.*—As an illustration of the energy displayed by the Geological Survey of the Territories, we may point to the issue of a beautifully-printed Report by Prof. Powell, on the Geology of the Eastern portion of the Uinta Mountains and the adjacent country. There can be no question about the great scientific interest of the region which is here described. Rocks of Palaeozoic, Secondary and Tertiary age, forming an aggregate of some 50,000 feet, have been subjected to displacements of enormous magnitude, the effects of which have been singularly well preserved for observation. In addition to a vast amount of local details, the Report contains some interesting facts in geological dynamics. The Uinta range has been produced by the upheaval of a great block of country, having an east-and-west axis, which has since been carved into shape by denudation. Along the axial line, which is curved, the total upheaval above sea-level has been about 30,000 feet. It is estimated that, on an average, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cubic miles of solid matter must have been removed by rain and rivers from every square mile of surface. The Report is accompanied by some excellent illustrations, including several "stereograms," which give a most graphic representation of the physical features of the country.

*Geological Work by Local Scientific Societies.*—We have received a copy of the last part of the *Proceedings* of the Geological and Polytechnic Society of the West Riding of Yorkshire—a society which is henceforth to have a wider sphere, and to extend its work to the whole of the county. The part now before us has been issued in a manner highly creditable to its editor, Mr. J. W. Davis. It contains ten papers, including an interesting address on Scientific Research by the Marquis of Ripon. As should always be the case with such publications, most of the papers are essentially local in character. They serve, however, to show how widespread the taste for geological study has become. In this connexion, too, we may call attention to the *Transactions* of the Cumberland Association for the Advancement of Science, of which we have recently received the second part, edited by Mr. Clifton Ward, of the Geological Survey. This capital number includes several papers of local geological interest, and also extends, as the name of the society implies, to other sciences, and even to literary subjects.

#### METEOROLOGY.

*Comparison of the Standard Barometers at Kew and Greenwich.*—At a recent meeting of the Royal Society a paper by Mr. Whipple was read giving an account of a series of comparisons between the standard barometers at these two observatories. It has repeatedly been maintained by foreign meteorologists, and also by the late Colonel Strange, that a material difference existed between the instruments, and, accordingly, the Kew Committee obtained the consent of the Astronomer Royal to a direct comparison. Four travelling barometers were employed, and the mean of 344 comparisons showed that Greenwich read 0.0012 in. above Kew. This difference is exactly one-fifteenth of that alleged by Prof. Wild to exist. Mr. Whipple was led to suspect that the reason of individual readings giving somewhat discordant values was to be found in the fact that

the Greenwich barometer is read by gaslight turned on when required. He found, by suspending thermometers close to the barometer and turning on the gas full for five minutes, that the temperature of the scale part of the instrument could be raised  $7^{\circ}\cdot 1$ , while the attached thermometer only rose  $0^{\circ}\cdot 8$ . It is obvious that in the case of a chance reading, if the observer be slow, a material difference might have been made in the reading obtained. We are glad to learn that the gas-jets have now been shaded so as to diminish the evil.

*The Meteorological Society.*—The last number of the quarterly *Journal*, for October last, has just appeared. It is unusually late, but this may perhaps be pardoned when we say that it is perhaps the most valuable part which has ever appeared. The most important paper is one by Mr. Clement Ley on the motion of the air in cyclones as shown by cirrus observations. This is illustrated by a series of synoptic charts for the month of March last, giving the motion of surface winds, and of upper currents. The other papers of value are: one by Dr. W. Marcet, F.R.S., on the climate of Cannes, in which he particularly studies the fall of temperature at sunset; and one from the Meteorological Office on the climate of the island of Rapä in the middle of the Pacific.

*Study of American Weather - Maps.*—Prof. Loomis has published in *Silliman's Journal* for January his eighth paper on this subject, in which he takes up the origin and development of storms. He says that the predisposing causes for all barometrical depressions are the existence of two areas of high pressure situated respectively on the west and east side of, and at a distance of about 1,000 miles from, the place of origin of the storm. In some cases there were as many as four areas of high pressure, and whenever at least two were not traceable this was owing to the insufficient extent of the region represented on his map. Two such areas give off air which tends to flow towards a central point, its direction being modified by the rotation of the earth, and so an incipient whirl is set on foot. Rain is not the first cause of cyclonic movements, but is observed in all serious storms. Once the cyclonic movement is started, an upward current is produced at its centre, and the central rarefaction is increased by the heat set free by the condensation of vapour. If the wind becomes violent the shape of the area of depression may become sensibly circular. Prof. Loomis then proceeds to show that the motion of the storm is always in the direction of the general system of atmospheric circulation, and this holds good between the Tropics as well as in the Temperate Zone. He shows that great storms are not confined to any particular locality, but one half of them originate at, or near, the Rocky Mountains.

*Meteorology of Russia.*—Prof. Wild has just published his last biennial Report, for the years 1875-6. The most important changes in organization which he has to chronicle have been the establishment of a central observatory at Pawlowsk outside St. Petersburg, of which the foundation-stone was laid May 20, 1876, and the formation of a special department for Maritime Meteorology and Weather Telegraphy, which was carried into effect at the same period. The remarks which Prof. Wild makes with regard to thermometer exposure present some interest. He deals first with the sling thermometer, *thermomètre fronde*, and points out that the main feature of a satisfactory exposure should be that agitation of the air about the bulbs should produce no change of temperature; so that the rapid rotation of the instrument in question is not calculated to ensure true readings. In the sun he found its indications  $1^{\circ}$  or  $2^{\circ}$  C. too high. Prof. Wild expresses himself surprised with the generally satisfactory performance of a Stevenson's screen.

*Meteorology of Denmark.*—Captain Hoffmeyer has issued his annual Report for 1876, which con-



tains in addition to the returns from the regular stations, a discussion of the climate of Denmark for the last fifteen years on the basis of observations at four stations, Copenhagen, Tarm, Hindholm, and Smidstrup. There is also a paper by M. Hagemann on Anemometers, in which he proposes two new forms of apparatus, one so far resembling a Lind's anemometer that the pressure is measured by a column of water—i.e., by the change of level of a bell like a gasometer. The aperture intended to receive the wind is a Pitot's tube, which is turned by a vane to face the wind, and so acts by compression. The other instrument is called a Magius tube; it is vertical and acts by suction like an odorator. The first arrangement is far preferable to the second for gusty winds, but M. Hagemann thinks that both principles might be used in anemometry.

**Meteorology of Victoria.**—Mr. Ellery has published his fourth Annual Report, for 1875, which hardly differs from that for previous years. In addition to the observatory at Melbourne, he has stations more or less completely equipped at Sandhurst, Ballarat, Portland, Port Albert, Cape Otway and Gabo Island.

**Earth-Temperatures and their Increase with Depth.**—The boring of the St. Gotthard Tunnel has yielded some very valuable results on earth-temperature, which have been laid before the Swiss Naturforschende Versammlung by Herr Stapff, and are discussed by Dr. Hann in the *Austrian Journal* for January 15. If the observations be considered with reference to their vertical depth, we have a mean rise of  $1^{\circ}$  C. for 46 metres; but this varies very seriously in different parts. Thus, under Andermatt we find a rise of  $1^{\circ}$  C. for 21.8 metres. This would give a temperature of  $77^{\circ}$  C. for the centre of the tunnel! This exceptional result Herr Stapff attributes to the state of decomposition of the rock at the place, which is a granite turning into kaolin. Dr. Hann discusses these observations with great care, and points out the difference between these results and those of the bore-hole of Spereberg, which are generally thought the most accurate in existence, and give as result  $1^{\circ}$  C. for 33.7 metres. The paper concludes with a serious warning to physical geographers to the effect that there seems little prospect of learning anything of the true rate of internal increment of heat by these observations. We have only attained a depth of 1,260 metres, or about  $\frac{1}{10000}$  of the earth's diameter. If we were to attempt to determine in the same way the law of diminution of temperature with height in the atmosphere, a similar proportion to the height of the atmosphere (60 miles) would be 22.16 metres, the height of an ordinary house. Hence our deepest bore-holes are mere scratches, and we really know nothing certain on the subject.

**The Aurora and Weather.**—Lieutenant Weyprecht has published in the *Denkschriften* of the Vienna Academy an elaborate discussion of the auroral observations taken during the Austrian Arctic Expedition. The greater part of the paper is not specially meteorological, but it is of interest to learn that a careful comparison of the observations of wind and barometrical pressure at and about the time of occurrence of auroral phenomena has failed to show any connexion between these displays and storms. This is of the more importance because in the published account of the expedition it was alleged that brilliant red auroras were always the precursors of storms.

DEATH has made another gap in the ranks of Swiss men of science. Prof. R. von Fellenberg-Rivier, of Bern, died at Cannes a few days ago at the age of sixty-eight. He was a companion of the late Emperor Napoleon III. at the artillery-school of Thun, and worked as diligently at the reconstruction of that establishment as he did later at the reorganisation of the Academy in Lausanne. Chemistry was his chosen province of

study; and after he returned to his native town he devoted himself almost exclusively in his private laboratory to those researches and experiments which procured him so high a reputation in the scientific world. In Switzerland, however, he was also known as a zealous palaeontologist and antiquary, and rendered much service by his extensive enquiries and his expert judgment upon ancient bronzes and stone implements. He was widely consulted on all matters in which he was an adept, on account of the liberal and ungrudging spirit with which he imparted to others the results of his own enquiries and experiments, and the warm interest which he took in all persons who were pursuing similar investigations. He was one of the most active members of the Naturforschende Gesellschaft, and was repeatedly chosen as its annual president.

## MEETINGS OF SOCIETIES.

SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES.—(Thursday, February 14.)

F. OUVRY, Esq., President, in the Chair. Mr. Bragge exhibited some pipes from the mounds in Ohio, made of sandstone, baked clay, steatite and black limestone. One was egg-shaped, and the others consisted of a bowl and short stem for the insertion of a reed, but none of them were in the shape of birds or animals, which are often found in the mounds. Mr. Borlase exhibited another, in the shape of a funnel, with a hole for the stem at the bottom. This specimen was covered with markings, chiefly squares and chevrons, which are considered by the Mormons to be Hebrew characters, and an evidence that the American aborigines are the lost tribes of Israel. The markings are similar to those on some funnels found by Dr. Schliemann at Hissarlik.—Prof. Stephens, of Copenhagen, exhibited a chemotype of an ebony pax, purchased in Copenhagen. He considered it as representing Christ carrying his cross, while a saint is holding the handkerchief of St. Veronica impressed with the holy face. What is supposed to be the handkerchief looks, however, far more like a picture on panel.—Mr. Franks presented to the society an impression of the seal of the Chapter of Cordova, in red wax, inclosed in a cup of white wax. The design represents the Virgin and Child—the former holding a palm—and kneeling ecclesiastics below. It dates probably from the end of the thirteenth century.

LONDON MATHEMATICAL SOCIETY.—(Thursday, February 14.)

LORD RAYLEIGH, F.R.S. President, and subsequently Mr. C. W. Merrifield, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair. The secretary read a portion of a paper by Prof. H. W. Lloyd Tanner, "On a General Method of Solving Partial Differential Equations." The general method of solving such equations of the first order consists in forming  $n$  equations—including the given one—such as to render

$$dz - p_1 dx - \dots - p_n dx_n = 0 \quad (a)$$

an integrable equation. These equations are found by solving certain partial differential equations usually written briefly  $[F_1, F] = 0$  (b). The object of the paper is to deduce a system equivalent to (b) directly from the conditions of integrability of (a). Such a system is, in fact, obtained, and precisely the same form of equation serves to integrate equations of the second order. It is shown that only one system of the kind just mentioned has to be integrated in order to get a final integral of an equation or system of equations, although some of them may be of an order higher than the first. When dealing with equations of the second or higher orders, it is necessary to solve a second set of auxiliary equations which have no analogue in the theory of equations of the first order. One system of this kind must be solved before passing to the first integral, another before we can get a second integral, and so on. No such system has to be solved before passing from the penultimate integral to the solution. The results obtained in the paper are applicable to systems of simultaneous equations of the same or different orders. The secretary then read part of a paper by Prof. H. Lamb (Adelaide), "On the Conditions for Steady Motion of a Fluid." It gives the general conditions necessary and sufficient in order that a given state of motion of a fluid should be a

possible state of steady motion. Particular cases of the conditions were given by Stokes in the *Cambridge Philosophical Transactions* for 1842. Mr. A. B. Kempe communicated two notes, "On a Property of the Four-piece Linkage," and "On a curious Locus in Linkages."—Mr. S. M. Drach read a paper "On Robert Flowers' 'The Radix,' a new Mode to Compute Logarithms." (It will be in the recollection of readers of the ACADEMY that Mr. A. J. Ellis, F.R.S., drew attention to this forgotten tract, published in 1771, in No. 285, October 20, 1877.) The author stated that this method appeared to be a great improvement on Mr. John Long's direct method of computing logarithms, *Phil. Trans.*, 1714 (see Hutton's *History of Logarithms*).—Prof. H. J. S. Smith, F.R.S., gave a statement of results obtained in his paper "On the Pluckerian Characteristics of the Modular Equations."—Mr. Drach exhibited a large collection of figures of curves to which Mr. Perigal has given the name of "tricircloids." The figures were drawn many years ago.

PHILOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—(Friday, February 15.)

DR. J. A. H. MURRAY, V.-P., in the Chair. The paper read was by the Rev. W. E. Cousins, long a missionary in the Island of Madagascar, on "Malagasy, the Language of Madagascar." Mr. Cousins gave an account of the various contributions made by Europeans to the study and development of the Malagasy language, from the sixteenth century to the present time. The written form of the language now in use was introduced by missionaries of the London Missionary Society, about sixty years ago. Substantially one language is spoken throughout the whole of Madagascar, but various dialects exist. That spoken by the Hovas is the principal and most cultivated dialect. The Sakalava is used on the west coast, and in the northern parts of the island; the Betsimisaraka is spoken on the east coast; and the Betsileo in the interior of the island, south of Imérina. The paper contained a description of the principal linguistic features of the Malagasy, and a short account of its unwritten literature, which consists chiefly of fragments of history, proverbs, and fables. The relation of the Malagasy to other languages was also discussed, and much evidence was adduced in favour of regarding it as the most westerly member of the Malayo-Polynesian family. Mr. Cousins showed that both in its vocabulary and in its grammar the Malagasy bears the closest affinity to this family. Without denying that an African element may exist in the language, Mr. Cousins maintained that no near relation to any African language has yet been proved to exist. At the same time he showed that many African words, among them the names of domesticated animals, have been introduced as the result of commercial intercourse. In the same way many Arabic, French, and English words have also become naturalised. After the paper, the meeting was addressed by the Rev. Dr. Mullens, and by two missionaries familiar with some of the Polynesian languages—viz., the Revs. S. J. Whitmee, of Samoa, and Moulton, of Tonga. Both these gentlemen bore decided testimony to the strong resemblances of the Malagasy, as described by Mr. Cousins, to the Polynesian languages generally.

PHYSICAL SOCIETY.—(Saturday, February 16.)

PROF. W. G. ADAMS, President, in the Chair. Dr. Lodge read for Mr. H. F. Morley, M.A., a paper "On Grove's Gas Battery." After referring to the views of M. Gauguin and Mr. Grove himself with regard to the cause of the action of this apparatus, the author proceeded to describe an elaborate series of experiments he has recently made in order to ascertain the circumstances by which it is regulated.—Mr. S. C. Tisley then described the "Harmonograph," especially referring to its use for drawing pairs of curves for the stereoscope.—Mr. Wilson exhibited for Prof. S. P. Thompson a Lantern Slide Galvanometer for showing the deflections of the needle to an audience.

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—(Tuesday, February 19.)

PROF. MIVART, F.R.S., V.-P., in the Chair. The Secretary exhibited the skin of a fine adult cassowary, which had been obtained at Wandammen, on the eastern coast of the bay of Geelvink, New Guinea, and acquired by the British Museum. The species

to which it belonged was believed to be undescribed, and it was proposed to call it *C. altijugus*, from its peculiar high-peaked helmet.—Mr. P. Geddes read a memoir on the mechanism of the odontophore in certain mollusca. In this paper the view of Cuvier—that the movements of the radula depend upon those of the underlying cartilages—was substantially revived, arguments being adduced against the more recent theory of Prof. Huxley, that it runs like a chain-saw, the cartilages merely forming a pulley-block. The use of bacteria as food by *Lymanæus* was also described by the author in this paper.—Prof. A. H. Garrod read some notes on the anatomy of *Tolypeutes tricusatus*, and gave remarks on other *Dasyopodidae*. A new form of *Tolypeutes*, allied to *T. conurus*, was proposed to be called *T. muriei*.—A communication was read from Mr. J. H. Gurney, containing notes on a specimen of *Polyborus*, lately living in the Society's Gardens.—A communication was read from Mr. D. G. Elliot, containing the results of his study of the *Petrochelidon*, or family of Sand Grouse. Nine species of *Petrochelidon* and two of *Syrriphantes* were recognised as composing the family.—Messrs. F. Du Cane Godman and Osbert Salvin gave descriptions of new species of Diurnal Lepidoptera from Central America.—Communications were read from Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, giving an account of a small collection of birds from the Ellice Islands; from Mr. Edward R. Alston on the dentition of *Cuscuta*; from Mr. T. F. Cheeseman, containing the description of three new species of Opisthobranchiate Mollusca from New Zealand; two from the Marquis of Tweeddale: one containing an account of a collection of birds made by Mr. A. H. Everett, in the Island of Negros, Philippines, the second, a description of a new species of the genus *Buceros*, proposed to be called *B. semigaleatus*, from the island of Leyte, Philippines.—Dr. F. Day communicated some remarks on the paper read by Mr. Whitmee at the last meeting of the society, on the manifestations of fear and anger by fishes.

METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY.—(Wednesday, February 20.)

C. GREAVES, Esq., F.G.S., President, in the Chair. Dr. Tripe read a paper on "The Winter Climate of some English Seaside Health Resorts." The places selected were Scilly, Torquay, Penzance, Guernsey, Barnstaple, Ventnor, Llandudno, Ramsgate, and Hastings; and the climatic features of each were compared with those of London. The results of this discussion may be briefly summed up as follows, viz.:—The mean daily winter temperature of these seaside places, and especially of those situated on the coasts of Devon and Scilly, is higher than at London. The mean daily maxima and minima are also higher, and especially the latter; so that the daily and monthly ranges of temperature are smaller. The mean humidity is less. The general direction of the wind about the same; but the number of rainy days and the rainfall are greater at the seaside. As regards the wind, therefore, the chief point to be specially noticed is the amount of shelter afforded by high land, as at Ventnor, and especially of protection against the stormy and cold winds which ordinarily prevail at the end of February and in March. The soil also should be considered, as heavy rains at gravelly and chalky places are not so objectionable as on clayey ground. The discussion on this paper was adjourned until the next meeting, which will be held on March 20.

ROYAL SOCIETY.—(Thursday, February 21.)

SIR JOSEPH D. HOOKER, K.C.S.I., President, in the Chair. The following papers were read:—"On the Alteration of the Thermal Conductivity of Iron and Steel caused by Magnetism," by H. Tomlinson; "Chemical Notes: On the direct Formation of the Chlorobromides. Chlorobromide of Ethylene ( $C_2H_4ClBr$ )," by Dr. Maxwell Simpson; "Further Note on Supersaturated Saline Solutions," by C. Tomlinson; "Sur une équation différentielle du 3me ordre," by Prof. F. Brioschi.

LINNEAN SOCIETY.—(Thursday, February 21.)

W. CARRUTHERS, Esq., F.R.S., V.-P., in the Chair. Mr. Thomas Christy illustrated by diagrams and made some remarks on M. Ossenkeip's new system of plant-propagation; and he also exhibited specimens of the fresh berry of the Liberian coffee recently imported,

and of this year's crop.—Mr. E. M. Holmes exhibited and tendered observations on a remarkable oak-gall, the produce of *Aphidothrix Sieboldii*, Hart, obtained at Willesborough Leas, Ashford. He also laid before the society an example of *Duboisia myoporoides*, R. Br., from Brisbane.—Mr. Thiselton Dyer exhibited the remarkable inflorescence and a drawing of *Phthychosperma rupicola*, Thw., which had flowered for the first time in Europe at Kew.—The first paper read was by Mr. E. Lockwood, "Notes on the Mahwa Tree" (*Bassia latifolia*). These grow in abundance in India; a hundred thousand may be seen on the plains around Monghyr. Wild animals of all kinds greedily devour the flowers, of which one tree will bear several hundredweights. Besides being nutritious to man, it is an excellent fattening agent for cattle, pigs, &c. A strong-smelling spirit is obtained by distillation of the corolla, an essential oil from the fruit, and as an agent in soap-making the tree is invaluable. Thus certain yield, unlimited supply, nourishing and chemical qualities, easy preservation, and its cheapness, all combine to render it hereafter a commercial product of no mean importance to our Indian Empire.—The gist of a "Synopsis of the Hypoxidaceae," by Mr. J. G. Baker, was given. This group differs in some respects from the Amaryllidaceae, and offers a closer alliance with the Bellosicaceae. Four genera and between sixty and seventy species are now known. The Cape is their head-quarters, but some are found in Tropical Africa and Angola, a very few in Abyssinia and the Mascarenes. None are found in Europe, Polynesia, North and Central Asia, or in extra-tropical South America.—The secretary read an abstract of a technical paper "On the Schoepfiace and Cervantesiace, distinct tribes of the Styracaceae," by Mr. John Miers.—There followed a communication by Mr. Arthur G. Butler, "On the Butterflies in the Collection of the British Museum hitherto referred to the Genus *Euploca* of Fabricius."

ROYAL INSTITUTION.—(Saturday, February 23.)

MR. R. BOSWORTH SMITH'S fifth lecture on "Carthage" dealt with the second phase of the Second Punic War. The lecturer began with a brief but forcible summary of Hannibal's wonderful career of triumph, and then traced the history of the duel with Fabius. The battle of Cannae was then described in powerful language. Hannibal had now three times inflicted terrible reverses on the Romans, and each had been a progression on the preceding. Trebia had been a rout; Trasimene, the slaughter of an army; but Cannae was a massacre of two armies of double strength. The panic at Rome was then graphically described, and the question why Hannibal did not at once advance on the capital met by the answer that the step was clearly impossible, simply because the greatest general of all times did not take it; an answer, it is true, savouring somewhat of the *petitio principii*. A high eulogy of Hannibal's conduct throughout the war was pronounced, and the *perfidia plus quam punica* sturdily denied. The extraordinary skill with which, after three years of brilliant aggressive warfare, the Carthaginian general applied his genius to a strictly reserved line of defence was pointed out. The arrival of Hasdrubal, Nero's feint, and its success at the Metaurus, concluded with a peculiarly brutal example of that brutality which ever characterised Roman warfare, brought this phase of the war to its end. The lecture concluded with a sketch of contemporary affairs in Spain and a sarcastic eulogium of the virtues of P. Cornelius Scipio.

FINE ART.

Griechische Thonfiguren aus Tanagra. Von Reinhard Kekulé. (Stuttgart: Spemann, 1878.)

ONE can scarcely call this a book. It is a set of pictures executed with most admirable skill in drawing, in etching, and in colour-printing. But there is a text also, which, like the substance of thought it conveys, is large, simple, and clear. Very rarely indeed does Germany come out in this fashion. Her services to archaeology have been unapproached for their utility. Witness the

Corpus of Latin Inscriptions and the Greek Inscriptions edited by Böckh, now appearing in a second edition, all at the cost of the Berlin Academy, or again the indispensable *Monumenti, Annali, and Bullettino* published by the German Institute of Rome. There is no country which can show anything at all worthy to be set beside this public enterprise on behalf of knowledge of classical antiquity. Nor does German enterprise in this direction end here, as could easily be shown if that were our present business. Our business is rather to call attention to this new field of publication on which the German Institute has entered. For some time it has had in hand a Corpus of Greek Terracottas under the editorship of Prof. Kekulé, of Bonn, of whom it may be said that his work hitherto has made him better known to archaeologists than to the general public, a relative condition of things which the volume of terracottas now issued ought to alter, since the text of it is addressed to all who may wish to learn. Obviously, also, it is the general purpose of education that has been aimed at in confining the selection to figures from Tanagra, which, though perhaps in no case so fine in style as some few that have been found elsewhere, are yet altogether singularly fascinating. Besides, there is something rounded and complete in itself in this discovery of immense numbers of terracottas and little else at Tanagra, a circumstance for which existing records had by no means prepared us.

Since the winter of 1873 several thousands of tombs have been opened. From want of supervision at the beginning, and perhaps in defiance of it since, a considerable number of the terracottas have found their way into museums and into private hands. As a rule, however, there is no such great variety among them that any serious loss to knowledge may be anticipated from this process of scattering. The essentially different types are few, while the number is vast of those which may be described as merely pretty young women corresponding to the China "shepherdesses" of modern ware. It is this that makes them sometimes wearisome when a fairly large series is seen together. The *koroplasthos* of Tanagra must have worked for a market where there was less intelligence than what is called taste, and when the wants of private houses were studied rather than the public sense of true beauty. Yet altogether there must have been a certain public pride in these productions to account for so constant a practice as that of burying quantities of them in the tombs, doubtless as acknowledged tokens of respect for the dead. It would be interesting to know whether, like the Athenian *lekkythi*, these terracottas were made expressly for sepulchral purposes or were merely ordinary household ornaments swept together from the walls when some important individual of the house died. But on this point it is to be remembered that the *lekkythi* are very consistent in representing scenes connected with death, while the terracottas are not. This would be true even if we admitted with M. Heuzey that the class of veiled and draped female figures are to be identified as Demeter and Persephone, for which as yet no adequate reason has been given. On the



contrary, both Kekulé and Rayet subscribe to the view originally proposed by Lüders that the figures in question illustrate the fashions of daily life. Some few may, perhaps, have a symbolic reference to death, but need not on that account have been excluded from use as household ornaments. I had thought (*Gazette Archéologique*, ii., p. 97) that certain female figures in the prime of personal charms playing at the game of Astragali might, like the daughters of Niobe, suggest a sense of the briefness of extraordinary youthful beauty. But M. Henzey calls this the abyss of symbolism, though one would have thought from the scarcity of arguments in support of his theory that he would have been glad of even so much.

Figures of deities are exceedingly rare among these terracottas. There is Artemis, and there is Eros: at least there is a winged and more or less chubby boy, who is rather one of the crowd of such figures in late art called Eros than truly the God of Love himself. In one specimen in the British Museum he is playing on a lyre: in another carrying fruits, as if he were a personification of Autumn. Even as regards Artemis it may be questioned whether the figure is really an image of the goddess, though it undoubtedly looks much as if it were. It is argued by Kekulé that the female figures holding masks must be Muses, since they cannot be actresses, women not having been allowed to appear in this capacity. But it is curious, if they are Muses, that no other distinctive attributes are assigned them as in the familiar representations of Muses. A female figure holding an apple or a mirror may be Aphrodite, but, as he points out, it may as well be a person of ordinary life. Then there is Hermes for certain, in the character in which he is known by tradition to have been worshipped at Tanagra—Kriophoros. Still, as has been said, these types are few compared with the many which have no identity, being either merely pretty women, girls, and boys, or groups from daily occupations—as, for instance, a barber plying his trade; a kitchen scene; or a very aged nurse with an infant in her lap. As regards the merely pretty figures, Prof. Kekulé has collected evidence to show that there was no lack of models for them in Thebes at least, and probably also in Tanagra itself. The peculiarities of costume answer to the ancient descriptions, and in some cases have survived to modern times. The hair is always a reddish-brown, and the eyes nearly always blue.

The date assigned to the mass of these terracottas is the third century and end of the fourth B.C., and it is supposed that their style was largely influenced by the Theban-Attic school of painting then flourishing. Tanagra was near enough to Athens to have profited by impulse from her artistic activity. Yet it is curious how little of the individuality of Athenian types it has yielded. Of very archaic figures with scarcely any indication of bodily form, and decorated with painted geometric patterns, a small number have been discovered, apparently, from what records have been kept, in the deepest tombs. But between these and the others there seems to be no evidence of transition or development.

When compared with the collection in the British Museum, the specimens now published stand out in some cases as having preserved their original colours with extraordinary freshness, and no doubt it was on this account that they were chosen. The difference is only one of comparative good fortune which any day may do away with, and under no circumstances would we question the absolute accuracy of the reproductions in this respect. Towards this end neither skill nor means were wanting, and the result is an achievement in the way of publication which has no rival.

A. S. MURRAY.

#### MICHELANGELO'S CARTOON OF PISA.

AN important contribution to our knowledge of Michelangelo's "Cartoon of Pisa," as his composition of soldiers surprised while bathing in the Arno is usually called, is made by Prof. Moritz Thausing in the *Zeitschrift für bildende Kunst* this month. It has generally been believed that of this great work of Michelangelo's, which, as everyone knows, was destroyed at an early date after its execution, the world possessed a tolerably accurate, though not perhaps a very masterly, copy, in the grisaille painting in the possession of the Earl of Leicester at Holkham. This is the composition which Schiavonetti engraved in 1808, and which has since become so well known by reproductions in almost every text-book of art. But doubts have before now been thrown by critics on its authenticity, and its origin has never been distinctly traced. It can scarcely be the copy Vasari speaks of as having been made at his desire by Bastiano da San Gallo in 1542, though that also was executed in black-and-white. This copy according to Vasari, was presented by a prelate named Gioivo to Francis I., and passed into France; whereas the Holkham copy, which was derived from the Barberini Palace, is not supposed to have left Italy until it passed into the possession of the Earl of Leicester.

Passavant and Waagen both suppose that the grisaille at Holkham is a copy, not from Michelangelo direct, but from Bastiano's work—a copy of a copy. Prof. Thausing goes farther than this, and seeks to prove that the highly-esteemed Holkham composition is in reality nothing more than what is termed a *pasticcio*, or a work made up from various sources, the principal being the engravings of Marcantonio's school, which offer us fragments of Michelangelo's work, and Vasari's graphic description.

The evidence for this view Prof. Thausing founds chiefly on the original design which, as before stated in the *ACADEMY* (Oct. 13, 1877), he has had the good luck to acquire for the Albertina collection. A photographic facsimile of this roughly-outlined pen-drawing is given in the *Zeitschrift*. It differs materially from the Holkham composition, both in the arrangement and number of the figures, the Holkham painting containing nineteen, while the original sketch only gives fourteen, some of them in quite different positions.

This proves nothing, however; for Michelangelo probably made numerous sketches for this work before fixing on the design which he ultimately adopted, and one might well expect to find variations in them. It is a significant circumstance, however, that in the Holkham example several of the figures are in a reverse position to those indicated in the drawing, and especially that the man on the left of the picture who leans over the edge of the bank in order to reach something out of the water does so with his left hand, exactly as he does in Marcantonio's engraving of the three figures known as the *Climbers*, which is known to have been reversed. This is, of course, suspicious, and offers a strong point in favour of Prof. Thausing's view, but it

seems scarcely safe to argue from the very rough original sketch here reproduced, which evidently is nothing more than the artist's hasty jotting-down of some passing idea, or first conception of the subject, as to the form which that conception finally took. We cannot help thinking also that Prof. Thausing has drawn somewhat on his own imagination in the composition he constructs in outline from Michelangelo's sketch and compares with the Holkham example. There seems to be no doubt as to the originality of the sketch in the Albertina, and it affords most valuable data for the study of this subject, though it cannot be accepted as conclusive. Beside the cartoon composition, the figures in which are unmistakable, though, as before said, many are merely indicated, there is on one corner of the paper a rough sketch of an arched window or doorway, over and at the side of which are seen two very small sketches of pictures set in frames, with the names *S. Giorgio* and *S. Giovanni* written upon them in Michelangelo's pointed handwriting. Without these names, however, one can distinctly make out the subjects of these queer little pen-scratchings. Whether they were the first dawnings of any great conception it is impossible to say. Such pictures are not known to have ever been painted by him.

Prof. Thausing does not in his clear history of the competition between Lionardo and Michelangelo enter into the reason as to why the latter did not paint his composition on the wall of the Palazzo Vecchio, like his rival. This has never been satisfactorily explained. M. M. HEATON.

#### THE ART OF PREHISTORIC GREECE.

A NEW chapter in the history of art and early Greece has been opened up by the recent discoveries and explorations in that country. The contents of the graves of Spata, near Athens, have been brought to light just in time to compare them with the treasures of Mykenae; and the two collections can now be studied side by side in the new Museum at Athens. It will be long before all the problems connected with these discoveries can be satisfactorily solved, or the various conclusions suggested by them fully followed out; each worker, in his own sphere, will have enough to occupy him for several years to come. Leaving to others more competent than myself to discuss and determine the leading questions called up by these interesting discoveries, I now send a few notes made during my recent visits to Olympia, Mykenae, Orchomenus, Spata, and Athens. One fact at all events is clear, and that is the profound influence exercised by the East, and more especially by Assyria through the medium of the Phoenicians, upon the civilisation of early Greece. Each fresh discovery made only serves to impress this fact more strongly upon the mind.

Firstly, then, as to the date of the objects found by Dr. Schliemann at Mykenae. On this point I think it is possible to throw a little fresh light. There is among them an interesting signet-ring of gold—discovered in a grave according to Dr. Schliemann, in a house according to M. Stamatáki—which represents the figure, perhaps of a woman, seated under a tree, with a second figure behind, and three others in front. The first of these is smaller than the rest, and is in the act of adoration; the other two wear the flounced dress characteristic of the primitive Babylonian priests, and above them are the common Babylonian symbols of the sun and crescent. The figures, as well as their position and the mode in which they are drawn, are an exact reproduction of what we find on the Babylonian gems of the early epoch, and must, as it seems to me, belong to the same period. The period, at all events so far as its influence upon foreign art was concerned, may be said to close with the rise of Assyria in the thirteenth century B.C. Here, therefore, we have a limit of age for some, at least, of the Mykenean antiquities. This signet-ring, however, is the

most primitive in style of all the engraved gold objects that have been found, whether chatons or prisms; and these, by the way, illustrate in a very interesting manner the development of the engraver's art in ancient Mykenae. Thus we have among them the representation of a hunt which is Assyrian, and no longer Babylonian, in character; next that of a lion which is equally Assyrian; then that of a struggle between a hero (? Herakles) and a lion, where, though the animal is still Assyrian and the attitude that of the Chaldean hero, Gisdhubar, in his struggle with the lion, the male figure more nearly approaches the Greek type; and, lastly, a battle-scene, in which the art is no longer Oriental, but has become Western. It is plain that these seals and prisms, though found in the same spot, mark successive periods of artistic progress and skill. I may add that another relic of what may be termed the Babylonian period of Mykenae art seems to have survived on a fragment of ivory (or wood), marked  $\mu$  649, where a flounced dress is apparently depicted. The double horn, too, which ornaments the helmets of the warriors on a fragment of painted pottery reminds us somewhat of the two horns that adorn the head-dress of the upper classes on archaic Babylonian gems. It is noticeable that none of these warriors wear the plaid dress with fringes represented on several pieces of Egyptian porcelain: the dress in question is very Assyrian in character.

The remains from the rock-tombs of Spata supplement those from Mykenae, and furnish patterns identical with those from the latter place. Thus the murex, that sure symbol of the Phoenicians, appears in both; indeed, this and one or two other patterns from Spata exactly fit those drawn on stone moulds from Mykenae. It is especially with the contents of the sixth tomb, discovered by M. Stamataki at Mykenae after Dr. Schliemann's departure, that the objects from Spata harmonise so closely. The ivories from Spata are particularly important, as bearing upon the date and origin of the remains with which they were found. They are unmistakably Phoenician in workmanship, and exhibit that mixture of Assyrian and Egyptian art so characteristic of Phoenicia. Thus the sphinxes represented on them, though Egyptian in origin, are modified by Phoenician, or rather Assyrian, influence; and the rosette, upon which the sphinxes have their eyes fixed in one instance, comes primarily from Babylonia. The model of a small column, too, bears upon it the stamp of Assyria, while the head of a man with a quadruple tiara seems to show that Assyrian influence entered Greece through Asia Minor as well as through Phoenicia. The head and tiara resemble those found in a bas-relief at Ibrez (Lycaonia) by Mr. Davis (*Transact. of Soc. of Biblical Archaeology*, iv., 2, p. 336), accompanied by inscriptions in the so-called Hamathite characters, and belonging to that modification of Assyrian art which we may now venture to term Hittite. A similar head-dress appears in the third line of the inscription found on the back of a broken statue by Mr. George Smith at Jerablâs (Carchemish). A visit to Spata convinced me that other rock-tombs exist in the neighbourhood; and, considering the value and interest of those already opened, it is to be hoped that the Archaeological Society of Athens will soon find an opportunity of exploring them.

As was to be expected, no traces of direct Egyptian influence are to be met with among the remains from either Mykenae or Spata. An ostrich's egg, however, adorned with stucco dolphins, and the fragment of another, point to an intercourse between Mykenae and the Phoenicians of the Delta—indeed, ostrich-eggs have already been found intermingled with objects of Phoenico-Greek art in the Polledrara grotto near Vulci—and I noticed the *crux ansata* on a piece of pottery, though, as this was only a fragment, the appearance may have been deceptive. The gold masks, too, found on some of the bodies

remind us of Egypt; a gold mask of similar character, for instance, belonging to Prince Kha-em-Uas, was discovered in an Apis-chamber and is now in the Louvre. However, a small gold mask was found a few months ago in a grave at Aradus.

Among the gold ornaments from Mykenae are some which represent the sitting figure of a goddess. This resembles the sitting figures of terra-cotta from Tanagra, which in form and material belong to the prehistoric period, and are merely variant forms of the same goddess, apparently the Babylonian Nana, who appears upright, with the head crowned and the arms either crossed or extended, both at Tanagra and Mykenae. Images of this goddess, called "idols" by Dr. Schliemann, have been found on other prehistoric sites, and M. Fr. Lenormant has traced them from Babylonia to Greece (see *Gazette Archéologique*, ii., 1 and 3).

With all this evidence of intercourse with the East, and more especially with the Phoenicians, it may seem strange that nothing like writing has been met with. I can only suggest by way of explanation that the Phoenicians themselves, or at least the Phoenicians of Palestine, were not yet acquainted with their alphabet. In this case we should be referred to a period earlier than that of Hiram, the contemporary of Solomon, when Phoenicia already possessed a literature. It is possible that when Orchomenus comes to be excavated, as is the intention of the Archaeological Society of Athens, inscriptions may be discovered there in the Phoenician character. Greek tradition ascribed the introduction of the alphabet to the Phoenician colony at Thebes, and the Kadmeians of Thebes were closely connected with the Minyans of Orchomenus. What I saw at Mykenae convinced me that the tombs found by Dr. Schliemann are much older than the so-called Treasuries outside the walls; and it is to the age of the Treasuries rather than to that of the tombs that I believe the remains yet to be unearthed at Orchomenus will turn out to belong. The prehistoric age of Greece, in fact, which is being revealed to us by the explorations at Rhodes, Cyprus, Hisarlik, Mykenae and elsewhere, was of very long duration, its most primitive features being probably represented by the objects found by Dr. Schliemann at Hisarlik. On the other side it lasted down into the historical age of Greece; for though Hellenic art, whether archaic or classical, must be kept quite distinct from that of the prehistoric period, it has much in common with the latter, especially in the matter of geometrical patterns, while specimens of Phoenician art of comparatively recent date have been met with all over Greece. Thus at Olympia I was shown a bronze plate, which Dr. Weil thinks may have formed part of a candelabrum, and is at any rate decidedly Assyrian in character. It is divided into four compartments, the uppermost representing the species of nondescript birds common on the so-called Corinthian vases; the second, Assyrian monsters; the third, the combat of Herakles with the Kentaur, altogether Assyrian in type; and the fourth, the Asiatic goddess with a lion in either hand and four wings behind. The same figure in exactly the same attitude may be seen upon some small square gold plates presented by M. de Saulcy to the Louvre. At Athens, again, M. Koumanoudes put into my hands a bronze dish, also from Olympia, adorned with Phoenician embossed work in the Egyptian style, and bearing a beautifully-cut inscription in Phoenician characters on the back, an inaccurate copy of which had been sent to M. Clermont-Ganneau. I read, "Belonging to Neger the son of Miga." The inscription is interesting in more ways than one. In the first place, the word signifying "son" is the Aramaic *bar*, and not the Phoenician *ben*, showing that the owner must have been of Aramean descent. In the second place, the characters are those of the Aramean branch of the Phoenician alphabet, and the dish may be dated, I think, B.C. 600-500. The

date is of some importance, since the characters belong to the same age as those of the inscription on the famous silver cup found the year before last at Palestina.

Prof. Rhousoponlos also showed me several gems in his collection, found in different parts of Greece, but of decidedly Phoenician origin. One of them bears a Phoenician inscription in Sidonian characters of the seventh century B.C., which I read  $\text{לֹאֲחִי בְּרֹתִי}$ , "belonging to the brother of Menes (?)." It represents a standing figure in Assyrian costume, with a spear in the hand and a crescent overhead. Prof. Rhousopoulos further showed me a Babylonian cylinder, which I may perhaps be allowed to notice here, as it will interest Assyrian scholars, even though it has little to do with the history of Greek art. The cylinder represents a king seated on his throne in archaic dress, with his subjects in front. It has an inscription in three lines, the last containing the name of the city of Agane, the seat of one of the most famous libraries of ancient Chaldea. I am not quite sure of the correctness of my copy of the first two lines, which were copied hastily, but they seem to read "Menâ, servant of Khamuragas." If this is right the cylinder would be an evidence of the occupation of Agane by the Cassite conqueror, Khammuragas.

The amount of gold already discovered at Mykenae is certainly astonishing, and I was not prepared to find it was so large. Gold objects have been found in Greek graves of all ages, but never before on anything like so large a scale. In a book of *Travels in Sicily, Greece, and Albania*, however, published by Mr. Hughes in 1820, the author describes the number, weight, and workmanship of various gold objects found a few years before by Mr. Lee, in a tomb on Mount Aëto, in Ithaka, in terms which would be quite applicable to such a treasure as that of Mykenae. After all, the title of "Treasury" given to the prehistoric tombs at Mykenae and Orchomenus is not so far wrong, since the objects buried with the dead fully justify the name. But I do not think the long and elaborate approaches to these treasures were subterranean passages by which access was allowed to their contents; similar passages exist at Spata, and there a personal inspection satisfied me that they had been filled up with earth as soon as the bodies of the dead and the objects buried with them had been deposited in the graves.

A. H. SAYCE.

P.S.—I entirely agree with the view expressed by Prof. Mahaffy in *Macmillan's Magazine*, that the *enceinte* within which the tombs were found at Mykenae is *not* an agora. I doubt even whether it has ever been used for such a purpose, were it on no other grounds than the smallness of the circle or the fact that it lies within the Acropolis. However this may be, it must have been originally erected in connexion with the tombs beneath. The stones of which it is composed are sandstone-grit, from the same quarries on the Treton road, midway between Mykenae and Nemea, as the tombstones and the stones found in the graves themselves, and thus differ entirely from the conglomerate stones of the treasuries and walls, or the grey Messenian limestone on which the lions are carved. Moreover, one side of the sixth tomb found by M. Stamataki, after Dr. Schliemann's departure, is immediately under the inner row of the stones of the *enceinte*, and the six tombs are arranged in two rows in the western half of the *enceinte* in artificial ground raised to the level of the natural rock, which rises almost to the surface in its eastern half. The *enceinte* just enclosed these tombs and nothing more. The enclosure was surely intended for sacrifices or offerings to the dead, and ashes were found by Dr. Schliemann in the soil. The stones of the *enceinte* slope inwards on the eastern side simply because of the weight of the earth behind them, just as they slope outwards for the same reason on the western side; and, so far as I could see, they do not slope in any



direction at all on the south or north. The mortices in the stones forming the *enceinte* certainly seem to imply that horizontal blocks were once laid across them, but it must be remembered that such horizontal blocks have not been found *in situ*, except in a still unexcavated corner on the east side.

## ART SALES.

THE oil pictures which had been in the collection of Mr. Jupp were sold last Saturday at Messrs. Christie, Manson and Woods'. They included fair examples of Patrick Nasmyth—one of which sold for 215 guineas—J. Linnell, E. Verboeckhoven, and other artists. In a different property were sold, *A River Scene*, with bridge and boats, by Peter de Wint, 30 gs.; *Penmaenmawr*, a late and large sketch of David Cox, on the large-grained rough paper that he used so much in his later years (43 gs.); *Barmouth Sands*, a sketch assigned to Turner, and presumably of the late period of his work—an "arrangement," to adopt the fashion of the moment, in red, orange, and blue. A reddish sketch, exceedingly slight and broad, and very effective—one of the unfinished pieces of Frederick Walker—was offered. It represented or suggested the interior of a studio, with an easel and an artist at work thereon, and, at a little distance, a model standing—a girl in act to beat a drum. The lighting was very true and effective. The sketch was knocked down at 30 gs. Some sketches by the late T. Creswick, R.A.—a very happy little one of *The Ford*, in sepia, and others in colours, of which some were sufficiently favourable examples of his work—occurred later in the sale.

MESSRS. SOTHEY, WILKINSON AND HODGE were to commence yesterday the disposal of the very large collection of prints and drawings long, we believe, in the possession of Mr. William Sharp, of Manchester. This is one of those sales of which one or two occur in the season: remarkable, it may be, in some parts of it, for the quality of the works offered, but first, at all events, claiming attention by reason of quantity. In mere quantity, however, the Sharp sale is less formidable than the James sale of last year.

## NOTES ON ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY.

WE very much regret to hear that Prof. Ruskin is dangerously ill from over-work. He is at his house at Coniston.

A VOLUME of photographs of eighteen "Imp" drawings, with descriptions of the imps, is about to be published by Mr. Wheeler, of Oxford. The author is the Hon. Mrs. Cradock. Both drawings and descriptions are full of a curious, weird talent, reminding us somewhat of that of Richard Doyle. We shall be surprised if the little volume does not meet with considerable success among children young and old.

ON Thursday evening, March 7, a paper will be read before the Society for the Encouragement of the Fine Arts, at their rooms, 9 Conduit Street, Regent Street, by Mr. Robert W. Edis, F.S.A., on "The Decoration of Town Houses." The chair will be taken at eight o'clock by Mr. Edmund Yates.

THE Artists' and Amateurs' Society had their *conversazione* on Tuesday evening, at the Rooms of the Society of Painters in Water-Colour, when there was a goodly company, and many works of interest exhibited. Among the works of deceased artists that drew special attention may be mentioned an important picture by John F. Lewis—*An Eastern Courtyard*—and a series of designs by David Cox. Among the works of living artists a pleasant river-landscape by Aumonier was exhibited; several pictures by Henry Moore; an exquisite figure subject by Albert Moore; and two or three of the large broad water-colour drawings

of Venice, which have justly earned for Miss Clara Montalba her fame as in the best sense a masculine artist. Miss Montalba's works—whether those seen on Tuesday evening or those exhibited previously—are in a style from which many of the younger water-colour painters, her contemporaries, would do well to learn. She brings back to water-colour art, in the opinion of many, a freshness and a strength it has not known since Cox and De Wint.

WE hear that the little Turner Exhibition which will open in New Bond Street in a day or two will contain, in addition to Mr. Ruskin's Turner drawings, a representative selection from the *Liber Studiorum*, which, though necessarily far less complete and imposing than the unequalled Exhibition of Turner's greatest engraved work, held about five years since by the Burlington Fine Arts Club, may still be seen with interest and advantage by those who missed that greater exhibition.

THE death of the celebrated landscape-painter Charles François Daubigny was briefly chronicled last week. His malady was hypertrophy of the heart, and had taken a manifestly fatal turn for about three weeks prior to his decease. He was born in 1817, without any advantages of fortune, and was, as far back as 1832, a painter of boxes, clock-cases, &c. By 1840 he had fully started on his career as a landscapist, noticeable for strong naturalism. Among his early works are the *Bords de la Rivière d'Oullins*, the *Seine at Charenton*, and the *Iles de Bezons*. One of his most renowned productions is now in the Luxembourg gallery, *L'Ecluse de la Vallée d'Oplevoz*, 1855. In the exhibition of last year, a *Moonrise* excited and deserved great admiration. River-scenes, with long and luminous vistas, were among his subjects of predilection. He was powerful, skilled, free from affectation in purpose, and from unrepaying over-labour; direct, impressive, sometimes startling in the truth of his scenes, and in the sentiment arising immediately out of that very truth. He and his son (Karl Daubigny, also a landscape-painter of well-earned repute) had a kind of floating studio, a barge, often of late years to be encountered on the Seine or the Oise; they painted as they drifted along, or, landing from time to time, made excursions after the picturesque.

UNDER the name of the Kyrle Society an association of ladies and gentlemen has lately been formed for the purpose of "bringing the refining and cheering influences of natural and artistic beauty into the homes and neighbourhood of the poor." These influences are undoubtedly felt to a greater extent than formerly among the middle-classes of society, and it is a pleasant and unselfish aim to wish to extend their effects as far as possible, so that the taste for beautiful things shall become still wider spread. We therefore sympathise entirely with the Kyrle Society in its endeavour—"1. To decorate with mural and other paintings, carved brackets, &c., rooms used by the poor for social purposes, such as clubs, school-rooms, and mission-rooms. 2. To make gifts of pictures and flowers for the homes of the poor. 3. To lay out as gardens any available strips of waste ground, and to encourage the cultivation of plants. 4. To organise choirs of volunteer singers. 5. To co-operate as far as possible with the Commons' Preservation Society in securing open-air spaces in poor neighbourhoods to be laid out as public gardens; and, 6. To further any effort at abating the smoke nuisance in manufacturing districts." Anyone who deems these objects praiseworthy may become a member of this society without subscription, but personal aid in all its undertakings is greatly valued.

M. DE NITTIS is exhibiting at the Cercle Artistique another of his curiously-detailed views of our London streets. This time it is the great thoroughfare in front of the Bank of England that he has represented, alive with what a French critic calls "the ferocious coming and going of the City." A foggy atmosphere prevails; but the

French will hardly accept M. de Nittis as a true exponent of a London fog, for everything looks tolerably bright and distinct in spite of the weather, while the prevailing notion abroad is that all colour and beauty is at once blotted out by it. A fog, however, may often lend a picturesque aspect to an ugly subject; and this, we imagine, is the aspect which M. de Nittis has chosen for his representation of the certainly unpicturesque Bank of England. Few artists besides himself would have attempted to make a picture out of such very unpromising materials.

BESIDE Prof. Thausing's article on Michelangelo's cartoon mentioned elsewhere, the *Zeitschrift für bildende Kunst* throws doubt this month on another English treasure—namely, the beautiful *Cupid* by Michelangelo in the South Kensington Museum. In a short note by Herr Michaelis it is pointed out that Aldrovandi, who wrote a catalogue of the antiques in Rome in 1550, mentions among them the *Bacchus* and, as he calls it, the *Apollo*, which Michelangelo executed for Paolo Gallo, and describes the *Apollo*, which doubtless was the same as the *Cupid* mentioned by Vasari and Condivi, in terms which do not apply to the South Kensington statue. This, it must be owned, is unsatisfactory, as that work is generally supposed to have been identified with the one executed as a commission from Signor Paolo Gallo. The other articles of the number are by Jacob von Falke on the metal-work and jewellery of the East, the second article of a series, and by the editor (von Lutzow) on the treasures of the newly-built museum of the Vienna Academy, which was opened a few weeks ago to the public.

KAULBACH'S two great cartoons of *Wilhelm Tell* and *Romeo and Juliet* have been engraved, the one by E. Martin and the other by Leeman, for the "Gesellschaft für vervielfältigende Kunst." Palma Vecchio's celebrated beauty, the *Violante* of the Vienna Gallery, has also been engraved for this society by J. Burger. The *Violante* of the Belvedere is, perhaps, the most lovely of all the many beautiful female portraits ascribed to Palma.

## THE STAGE.

## MR. GILBERT'S NEW PLAY.

MR. GILBERT'S *Ne'er-do-Weel*, produced at the Olympic Theatre on Monday evening, has unfortunately only furnished another evidence of the difficulty under which our managers labour of obtaining new pieces possessing the elements of popularity. This is a play in three acts, partaking more of the character of a romantic drama than of a comedy. In other words, its aim is, in the first place, to interest us in a story; but the story is unhappily the weakest feature of the work. The original notion of the author seems to have been to portray a worthy hero who has sunk into idle and dissipated habits only through a disappointment in a love affair; to show him suddenly raised from his fallen condition by the kindness of an old schoolfellow; then tempted to forget the obligations of gratitude and friendship, on discovering that his benefactor is in love with the very lady who has been the innocent cause of the *Ne'er-do-weel's* temporary downfall. The conflict between overwhelming passion and the voice of duty and honour is always a promising theme for dramatic treatment; and Mr. Gilbert has been careful to exhibit his hero as recovering from a momentary outburst of his old feeling, and resolving heroically to sacrifice himself for the sake of his benefactor. Nor is the force of this generous resolve necessarily weakened by the ultimate discovery that it is not needed, because the benefactor in his heart has so decided a preference for a pretty village girl, with whose affections he has cruelly trifled, that he marries her and leaves his friend to espouse the original object of his affection. All this only

provides the "happy ending" which our audiences are accustomed to expect in a romantic play. But the truth is that the theme is pursued without any effort to give full strength to the contrasts and antagonisms which it involves. It is obvious that in contemplating the rivalry between the benefactor and the *protégé* the pathos of the situation must greatly depend upon the spectator's previously acquired sympathy with each party. It is only the worthy man whose trials and struggles with adverse circumstances constitute a spectacle pleasing to gods and men. But the author has, with fatal perverseness, contrived to deprive each of his two heroes of almost every claim to respect. The benefactor, though he has rendered a slight service to an old schoolfellow in trouble, is a selfish, fickle, and unprincipled person; and the reformed Ne'er-do-weel is so weak a creature that when he finally obtains the hand of the heroine it is impossible not to feel that the young lady deserved to draw a less doubtful prize in the matrimonial lottery. It may be that a timely lift on the road of life must be paid for, as folks say, "in meal or in malt," but the meal should clearly be the payer's own meal, and the malt ought not to be abstracted from anybody else's store. Mr. Gilbert's Ne'er-do-weel not only subjects the object of his love to the painful embarrassment of being wooed by an old admirer on behalf of a distasteful rival, but actually proposes to sacrifice her to a man who is well known to be plotting with his embarrassed father to apply her fortune to their own purposes. The author does not seem to have felt that his hero, by generously taking upon himself the discredit of his friend's heartless flirtations with the village maiden, was really tacitly entering into a conspiracy against another young lady's peace and happiness. As he well knew, the lady really preferred the reformed scapegrace, who, as we are to believe, would never have been a scapegrace but for the magic of her bright eyes and the cruel opposition of unsympathising guardians. Why, then, should she be subjected to the shock of hearing from her lover's own lips a false confession of treachery towards herself and of heartless behaviour towards a poor girl? And why should a pleasing and accomplished young lady, with a fortune to boot, be tempted by a fraud to hand herself over for life to the wrong man? Mr. Gilbert's only answer must be that this is his hero's notion of how to repay one who, having found him without employment and in rags, has furnished him with a suit of clothes and a snug situation.

Unfortunately good acting is not only powerless to redeem defects of this kind, but serves to deepen the impression of inconsistency and lack of truth. The more pleasing, for example, is the village maiden in the person of Miss Gerard, the more contemptible appears Mr. Seton, the young gentleman who, having trifled with her affections, addresses her with offensive familiarity and coxcombical compassion, and, heedless of her suppressed sobs, even enters upon a description of his feelings towards her wealthy rival. In like manner the innocent graces and tender impassioned utterances of Miss Marion Terry as the wealthy young lady referred to, only bring into stronger relief the meanness and the weakness of her two lovers. Mr. Henry Neville is an excellent representative of heroes of the Ne'er-do-weel class—men who have fallen away from the path of honour under evil influences, but have still enough of good feeling and generous impulses left to work out their own redemption; but acted in this spirit the character is necessarily felt to be at variance with itself.

These objections would probably be sufficient in themselves to explain the somewhat unfriendly reception accorded to *The Ne'er-do-weel* on its first performance, but they are far from exhausting the defects of the play. Mr. Gilbert has attempted in the manner of M. Sardou to relieve the sentiment of his story by the introduction of scenes which belong rather to extravagant vaudeville

than to romantic drama; but the relief is less apparent than the air of incongruity which these elements impart to the work. This arises no doubt in great measure from the circumstance that the scenes referred to are of an episodic and arbitrary kind; or are protracted and elaborated in a degree out of all proportion to any influence that they have on the action of the play. There is an amusing trait of character in the elder Mr. Seton's propensity to self-depreciation, with its accompanying habit of resenting anything like acquiescence on the part of others in his own modest utterances. An old retired sea-captain, represented by Mr. Anson with too much noise and violence of manner, is also a clever character-sketch. The first attempt of this gentleman to perform the duties of Justice of the Peace, to which office he has just been appointed by a good-natured Lord-Lieutenant, is in itself a humorous conception, though the worthy captain's shake of the hands and his friendly "How are you, Dick?" in spite of the circumstance that he well knows the prisoner to be a dishonest and disreputable fellow, and quite capable of the burglary with which he is charged, are too absurd even for caricature. The audience, however, were not in the mood to do justice to the humours of a scene so far out of the direct line of the story and so little in harmony with its spirit.

MOY THOMAS.

THE publication a few years ago of a new Life of Edmund Kean has led to the revival of some of the forgotten plays which he made so popular. A correspondent tells us of a recent performance in Yorkshire (by a company under the management of Mr. James Scott) of George Coleman's *Iron Chest*. It was arranged for the stage and the chief character was creditably performed by a young actor passing under the name of Poel, the son, we understand, of a well-known scientific man in London.

### MUSIC.

LAST Saturday afternoon Herr Ignaz Brüll made his first appearance at the Crystal Palace. Well known in Germany both as a composer and pianist, Herr Brüll came forward on this occasion in both capacities, selecting for performance his own second concerto in C major. Judging from this work, we should class the composer among the musical conservatives, rather than as belonging to the "New German School." A work clearer and more symmetrical in its whole form and design Mozart himself could hardly have written. There is no attempt at profundity, no over-elaboration, but a perfect artistic balance in the whole. The opening themes of the first Allegro are slightly commonplace; but Herr Brüll is not the first who has shown how much can be done with apparently unpromising material. The Andante and Finale are happier in invention; the subjects of these movements are very pleasing, though individuality of style is hardly the composer's strong point. He excels most in the admirable workmanship and perfect finish of his music; it is not especially striking, but always good, and one recognises in it the hand of the genuine artist. Herr Brüll's playing has much affinity with his style of composition; he does not dazzle, like Rubinstein and others who might be named, but he always satisfies; in a word, it is good sterling playing; and the opinion formed after hearing him at the Monday Popular Concerts was confirmed on Saturday, that in Herr Brüll we have not a phenomenal player, but a genuine and conscientious artist. Wagner's "Eine Faust-Overture," which opened the concert, had been only once previously heard at the Crystal Palace (October 10, 1874), and was well worth repeating. There is little to add to what was said in these columns on the occasion of its first performance. It is a thoughtful and poetical work, but one which, both from the nature of its ideas and from its

musical treatment, will be always more interesting to musicians than to the general public. Whether it will ever become a favourite piece with our audiences may be gravely doubted. In spite of its great difficulty, it was magnificently played under Mr. Manns' direction; but it was coolly received—a result which can have surprised nobody who was acquainted with the music. The other orchestral pieces at this concert were Mozart's lovely Symphony in E flat, and Bennett's Overture to the *May Queen*. The vocalists were Herr Henschel, one of the first living baritones, and Miss Merivale, a *débutante* with a small but pleasing voice, as to whose musical acquirements judgment must be reserved till she is heard under more favourable circumstances. It is seldom possible to form a just opinion of a young singer on her first appearance.

On Tuesday evening Mr. Henry Leslie's Choir gave their first subscription concert for the present season at St. James's Hall. This admirable choir has now entered upon the twenty-third year of its existence, and in the performance of unaccompanied music, which from the first has been its specialty, it still retains its pre-eminence. Any more finished singing than that of Bach's very difficult eight-part motett "The Spirit also helpeth us," could not be desired. Other noteworthy features of the programme were a motett, "Gaudent in coelis," for double choir, by Walliser, and the "Pater noster" of Meyerbeer. English composers were represented with madrigals and part-songs by Alfred R. Gaul, Charles Lucas, Hubert S. Parry, J. F. Barnett, and Henry Smart; while the choral music was relieved by solo pieces given by the Misses Robertson and Mr. W. G. Forington, the latter a very young baritone singer, with a voice of pure and excellent quality, who made a most successful first appearance. With careful study he ought to take a good position in the profession.

At the Adelphi on Monday, Mr. Carl Rosa gave, for the first time this season, Benedict's *Lily of Killarney*, the performance of which formed one of the important features of his last season at the Lyceum. The part of Danny Mann, previously taken by Mr. Santley, was well given by Mr. Ludwig; the other chief characters, Eily, Hardress, and Miles-na-Coppaleen, being sustained, as before, by Miss Julia Gaylord, Mr. F. C. Packard, and Mr. Charles Lyall. The performance was characterised by the same finish of ensemble as that of the *Merry Wives of Windsor*, already mentioned in our columns. During the week these two operas have been played alternately. For this evening the production of Brüll's *Golden Cross* (for the first time in England) is announced.

On Wednesday afternoon Mr. Oscar Beringer gave at St. James's Hall what was announced as a "Piano Recital," but was in reality a chamber concert, with a very interesting programme. The first piece was Brahms's trio in E flat for the unusual combination of piano, violin and horn, in which Mr. Beringer was assisted by Messrs. Holländer and Wendland; and the finale was Hummel's well-known septett in D minor, in which the three gentlemen just named were joined by Messrs. Svendsen, Dubrucq, Daubert, and Pavgatsky. As his solos Mr. Beringer chose the second of Bach's "Suites Anglaises," the "Sonata Appassionata" of Beethoven, and smaller pieces by Chopin, Schubert, Schumann, and Raff. The vocalist was Mdlle. Redeker, who gave songs by Schubert, Schumann, and Jensen. Mr. Beringer's sterling playing is too well known to need eulogium here; it will suffice to say that his performance on this occasion fully sustained his reputation. The concert was in all respects most enjoyable.

THE first of Herr Franke's fifth series of Chamber Concerts was given at the Royal Academy of Music on Tuesday evening. The chief works in the programme were Goldmark's Suite in E, for



piano and violin, played by Herr Ignaz Brüll and Herr Franke, Wieniawski's "Légende" for violin, and Beethoven's quartett in C minor.

A CONTRIVANCE for sustaining the sounds on the pianoforte, without interfering with the usual form or structure of the instrument, has been invented by Luigi Caldera of Turin, and recently patented by Messrs. Kirkman and Son, of London. The mechanism consists of a simple and ingenious arrangement of small hammers, attached to a cylinder which is set in motion by a pedal. During the rotation of the cylinder a continuous vibration of the strings is produced.

LOUIS PAPIER, organist of the Thomaskirche at Leipzig, and well known in Germany as an excellent player, died in Leipzig on the 13th ult., at the age of 40.

MESSRS. SCHOTT AND Co., of Mainz and London, have recently published two very interesting works by Richard Wagner—a so-called "Album-Sonata" for piano, and the *Siegfried-Idyll*, for a small orchestra. The former, written, as we learn from the title-page, in 1853, for a lady's album, is a rhapsody, or fantasia, rather than a sonata, as that word is commonly understood. It is in the form of a long slow-movement, with an episode in the middle in quicker tempo; both in melody and harmony it is highly interesting, and it is by no means very difficult to play. The *Siegfried-Idyll* was composed in 1871—the time of the completion of the score of *Siegfried*—for Mdm. Wagner's birthday, and was not originally intended for publication. The work is scored for a (for Wagner) remarkably small orchestra; besides the strings there are only one flute, one oboe, two clarinets, one bassoon, two horns, and one trumpet; and Wagner has probably never shown more strikingly his mastery of instrumentation than by the charming effects he obtains with so few instruments. The work is a Pastoral founded on themes mostly taken from the great duet between Siegfried and Brünnhilde; and, though hearers who are unacquainted with the drama would miss the additional interest inspired by the association of ideas, the music is of such intrinsic beauty that it could hardly fail to produce a great effect. Mr. Manns might well introduce it in one of the Crystal Palace programmes.

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